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APRIL, 1998

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 4

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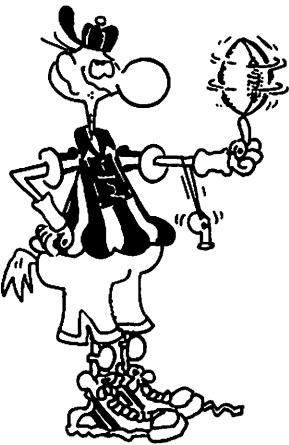


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Editorial & Staff Directory

Publisher: Lynne McNair
Editor: Kirk McNair
Assistant to the Publisher: Vera Dowdle
Circulation Director: Mary Ellen Palardy
Photo Editor: Barry Fikes
Artist: Dan Proctor

Contributing Writers:
Todd Anderson, Lewis Each,
Peter Edmund, Donna Fromme,
Donald F. Staffo, Craig Threlkeld,
Andrew Varble II

Contributing Photographers:
Robert Sutton, Steven Fikes,
Spectrum-Southeast, University of Alabama

Computer Consultant:
Stephen Bushery, ComSouth

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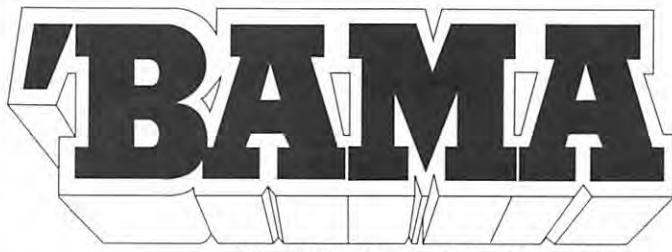
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CONTENTS

On The Cover: Travis Carroll was an All-America in high school and had a very good season as an All-SEC Freshman middle linebacker for Bama last year. Now he has hopes of being a star and he knows what he has to do to achieve that goal. See Page 12. Barry Fikes Photo



Page 14

Basketball Search: It Appears Alabama Can't Lose

8

Alabama seemed to be very close to having a new head men's basketball coach on board and if the finalists are indeed former Tide player Mark Gottfried and former Bama Assistant Coach James Green, Alabama will have a good man at the helm. Meanwhile, the Alabama women concluded another good season.

by Kirk McNair

Travis Carroll: Linebacker Has High Aspirations

12

Travis Carroll came to Alabama last year as one of the nation's most highly-recruited freshmen. Carroll was no disappointment and as he approaches his sophomore season he's already an all-star candidate.

by Kirk McNair



Page 16

Jason McDonald: He Has Accepted His Position

14

Jason McDonald was considered one of the nation's top offensive tackle prospects when he came out of high school. Now McDonald is making the subtle shift from tackle to guard, a position he and Tide coaches think will be better for him and for Bama.

by Donald F. Staffo



Page 20

The Phillips: Reunited Cousins Help Tide Baseball

16

Cousins Andy and Paul Phillips were born just a few days apart and spent their early childhood playing together before Paul's family moved away. Now the two are back playing together, this time as stars on Bama's baseball team.

by Peter Edmund



Gymnastics: Tide High In Championship Season

20

Alabama ranks among the very best in college gymnastics, this year and almost every year. And historically the teams of Sarah and David Patterson step up at championship time.

by Andrew Varble II

Spring Football: Tide Committed To The Pass

23

Based on the first week of spring football practice, the Crimson Tide is indeed committed to putting in a modern passing game. Most of the attention is on the quarterbacks, but the receivers have to get the job done, too. One of those receivers, Michael Vaughn, is out until next August.

by Kirk McNair

The Departments

Scorecard	6
Football Depth Chart	24
1998 Alabama Football Schedule	26
Alabama Sports Camps	28
Spring Sports Results	30



Page 23

BAMA SCORECARD

New Facilities

One of those rumors that will not die is that Alabama is about to lose Head Baseball Coach Jim Wells because Athletics Director Bob Bockrath will not give Wells everything he wants.

That is not likely to be the case. It is almost certain that Wells would like to have facilities Bockrath cannot provide now, but Alabama is working to upgrade facilities. While baseball's Sewell-Thomas Stadium is in for a grand expansion, Alabama is also going to have a women's fast-pitch softball park.

Bama plans to spend \$3.2 million to increase seating capacity from 3,800 to 6,200 at Sewell-Thomas, which was constructed in 1990. New seating will include 5,000 chairback seats (compared to 2,600 now) and 1,200 bleacher seats. The project includes six sky-boxes, an updated press box and expanded restrooms and concessions areas. The stadium will also be brought into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, including an elevator. The facility will also include a home team locker room (the Tide currently has a locker room in Coleman Coliseum), training, meeting and equipment facilities, including indoor batting and pitching cages. The baseball field expansion is expected to be completed by May, 1999, when Bama will hopefully be vying for an NCAA Regional Tournament.

While this isn't the new baseball stadium that was reportedly promised to Wells, it is a step in the right direction. Another improvement needed to the facility is the actual playing surface, which should be replaced with the fast-draining Prescription Athletic Turf so popular in football stadiums.

The women's softball stadium, as yet unnamed (with the right donation you can probably select the name), will cost \$2.1 million. It could also be used for other sports. The lighted stadium will be near the University Recreation Center. Plans call for 1,000 seats on benches with backs and another 500 seats in stadium chairs. While locker rooms will not be included, the facility will include meeting and training rooms, press box, restrooms and concession area. The plan also includes 400 parking places. An additional practice field is being considered. The facility may be used for events other than women's fast-pitch softball. The facility will be completed in time for next season.

Tourney Tickets

Tickets for the Southeastern Conference Baseball Tournament, to be played at the Hoover Met in Birmingham May 13-17, are on sale. Tickets for the five-day event are \$70 for reserved seat books and \$30 for general admission tickets that can be used in any combination, such as six tickets to one game or one ticket to six games. Single game tickets will go on sale Monday, May 11.

Ticket books may be purchased by credit card by calling TicketLink in Birmingham, 1-800-277-1700.

Naismith Finalist

Junior Alabama forward Dominique Carty is no stranger to awards and it's no surprise

that she is among the finalists for the biggest in college basketball, the Naismith Player of the Year award. The Atlanta Tipoff Club presents the awards to the top men and women college players in the nation each year.

Winners this year will be honored in Atlanta on April 4.

Former Alabama players Niesa Johnson and Yolanda Watkins were also finalists for the Naismith Award.

Carty is not the favorite for the award. Heading the list for female player of the year are Chamique Holdsclaw of Tennessee, Nykesha Sales of Connecticut and Ticha Penichero of Old Dominion. Antawn Jamison of North Carolina, Raef LaFrentz of Kansas and Mike Bibby of Arizona head the list of finalists on the men's side.

Carty was expected to be named a Kodak All-America when that team was announced in late March. At the worst she would be an honorable mention All-America on that team after having been named one of the 48 finalists, members of the all-region teams. Players were selected by members of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association.

Carty was previously announced as an All-America by the U.S. Women's Basketball Association and second team by the Associated Press.

All-SEC

The Southeastern Conference women's basketball coaches selected Dominique Carty to its first team All-SEC Team. She and Tennessee's Chamique Holdsclaw were unanimous selections. Tide guard Brittney Ezell and center Tausha Mills were second team selections.

Ezell Selected

Alabama guard Brittney Ezell was selected to participate in the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Honda All-Star Challenge, a game that was to be played March 28 in Kansas City in conjunction with the Women's Final Four. Seventeen players were selected by the WBCA from 107 nominees. The two squads will be augmented by top seniors from NCAA Division II and Division III and from the NAIA.

Academic Honors

Leah Monteith Goss, a senior from Centre, has become the first Alabama player to be named Academic All-SEC four times. After redshirting her freshman season, Goss has maintained a 3.55 average in elementary education. Joining Goss on the Academic All-SEC team is Pam Duncan (a three-time honoree) of Carrollton, Kidada Holtzclaw of Sylacauga and Reagan Croyle of Gadsden.

Rookie Of The Year

Former Alabama women's basketball star Shalonda Enis of the Seattle Reign was named the women's professional American Basketball League's pure rookie (1997 college senior) player of the year for the 1997-98 season. Enis was one of the bright spots on the floor for the Reign, leading the team in scoring 18

times. She was this season's ABL All Star most valuable player with 15 points and 5 rebounds. She led all ABL rookies in scoring at 18.0 points per game (fifth in the ABL) and contributed 7.6 rebounds per game (seventh in the league). She had a career high 39 points (a Reign record) on January 4 against Long Beach and was named ABL player of the week. Enis shot 46.6 per cent from the floor, 40.3 per cent from three point range and 79.2 per cent on free throws.

Off Court Honor

Alabama's men's basketball team had a losing record for the first time in a decade and the result was that league's coaches named no Alabama players to one of the 16 spots on the All-SEC first, second or third teams. Additionally, no Tide player was selected for the SEC All-Freshman Team.

However, Bama sophomore Jeremy Hays was one of 20 men's basketball players who earned Academic All-SEC. The center from Boaz was selected on the basis of his 3.11 grade point average in business.

Agent Banned

The University of Alabama reached an out-of-court settlement with Gregory Ray Williams that bans the North Carolina sports agent from doing business in the state of Alabama for life. Williams was implicated in the Michael Myers case last fall.

Myers, a returning All-America defensive lineman, was suspended by The University after the first football game of the 1997 season, then subsequently dismissed from the team. At this year's Senior Bowl, professional scouts estimated that Myers accepting a few hundred dollars from a sports agent and missing his senior year would probably cost him several million dollars in this year's NFL draft.

Also under the terms of the agreement, Williams is prohibited from representing any SEC student-athlete for the next two years and must pay the university \$5,000 to cover legal costs.

The University earned praise from both SEC and NCAA spokesmen for persevering in its case against the agent.

Pro Day

Dozens of professional football scouts descended on Tuscaloosa in mid-March to look at prospects who had completed college eligibility. One of the players drawing the most interest from the scouts was Michael Myers, who was able to play only one football game last year before being dismissed from the Crimson Tide football team.

Scouts also looked at the likes of cornerback Deshea Townsend, tight end Rod Rutledge, tailback Dennis Riddle, and even former walk-on defensive end Anthony Dowdell. However, the player drawing the most attention was running back Curtis Alexander. Alexander was very impressive in the workout in the Tide's indoor practice facility as he ran a pair of sub-4.4 clockings in the 40-yard dash.

The exhibition attracted a number of former Crimson Tide players, including a handful who are active with NFL teams, among them Baltimore Director of Scouting Ozzie Newsome, Detroit Offensive Coordinator

Sylvester Croom, and Tampa Bay Running Backs Coach Tony Nathan.

Poor Meet

Alabama Head Gymnastics Coach Sarah Patterson has been disappointed in her team in only one meet this year, but it was the SEC Championship meet in Baton Rouge. The Crimson Tide had to count falls on both balance beam and vault and finished fourth in the meet, behind Georgia, Florida and LSU.

However, junior Mandy Chapman was named All-SEC for the second year in a row, while Robin Hawkins was named SEC Freshman of the Year. Hawkins has been out of competition since tearing her anterior cruciate ligament midway through the season. League coaches selected the honorees.

Gymnasts Shine Academically

While it is clear that Alabama gymnastics is one of the SEC's best in competition, it is the best when it comes to the classroom.

The best barometer of such success, on a conference level, is the SEC Academic Honor Roll, instituted in 1984. The honor roll is open to all athletes that are a sophomore or better in academic standing. To earn the honor, a student-athlete must hold a 3.0 or better grade point average, either for their career or for the past academic year. A league-best 75 Alabama gymnasts have earned the award. Alabama's top count is eight in one season, a feat accomplished twice, in 1990 and 1997.

This season saw Alabama place seven gymnast on the list, including all three seniors. The honorees are:

Merritt Booth, 3.64, psychology; Mandy Chapman, 3.38, football and nutrition; Lexa Evans, 3.51, journalism; Becca Field, 3.11, pre-major studies; Gina Logan, 3.23, health care management; Danielle McAdams, 3.57, sports fitness management; and Shay Murphy, 3.15, biology.

This season is again turning into a banner year in the classroom. Last semester, 11 of 13 gymnasts earned a 3.0 or better grade point average which translated into a team GPA of 3.43. All 13 gymnasts made a 2.75 or better. April Makinson earned a perfect 4.0, placing her on the President's List. Seven members of the 1998 team were named to the Dean's List, which requires a 3.5 or better, including: Merritt Booth, Danielle McAdams, Mandy Chapman, Lexa Evans, Robin Hawkins, Katie Hornecker and April Makinson.

New Soccer Staffer

Head Soccer Coach Don Staley has had the same staff for the past two years, a situation that he believes has been a major part of Alabama success. However, this year he must replace two assistants. Melissa Mitchell is leaving the staff to continue her playing career in Norway, while Sue Williams has decided to return to school to earn a master's degree in education.

After a three-month search, Staley has found a successor to Mitchell. He has hired Karrie Miller from the South Carolina staff. Miller, who has spent the last three years as the Gamecocks' assistant coach, first gained national recognition when she developed South Carolina's first Division I soccer program at Charleston Southern. In 1993 she led

the Buccaneers to a first-year record of 12-5-1 record. Most notable, she shared Big South Conference "Coach of the Year" honors with the coach at Radford-Don Staley. She coached at Charleston Southern for two years. She had previously coached at Gardner-Webb while earning her master's degree. As a player, she was the first woman in South Carolina to earn a college soccer scholarship. She was a three-time All-America at Erskine College.

Battling Adversity

This is not the women's team that Jenny Mainz was lured away from Iowa to coach, not that you will ever hear her complain about the situation she inherited at Alabama. When Mainz was offered the head coaching job for women's tennis, Alabama was a potential top-10 program with an All-America returning at the number one position and solid players throughout the rest of the lineup.

Things began to change even before Mainz was announced as head coach. All-America sophomore Baili Camino took her game back to her home state of Florida to play for the Gators. Junior Amanda Ballinger decided during the first weeks of the fall semester that she wasn't happy in Tuscaloosa and transferred to Ole Miss. So before the season even started, Alabama's number one and number four from the season before were out the door. But all was not lost; Alabama still had a solid lineup of veterans and newcomers. Then, because life is just not fair, the injury bug sidelined sophomore Dominique Glinzler, slated to play number one this season, and freshman Selia Mathew, who was expected to be the number two player. At that point, Alabama went from having no depth to having no lineup. To make matters even worse, Alabama's number three, freshman Laura Taylor, suffered a severe sprain five matches into the dual meet season and is out indefinitely.

Mainz has done a remarkable job keeping her squad together. Jill Breslin, last year's number three, is battling at number one singles, while freshman Kerry Emes, originally slated to play at five or six, is at number two. An open tryout on campus garnered Alabama junior Heather Geros, freshman Scott Butcher and sophomore Jessica White. All three went from normal students to varsity athletes in a matter of days. Geros has been the most interesting success story. Four years removed from any sort of competitive tennis, the Marietta, Georgia, native, joined Alabama for the South Alabama match. Her very next match, on the road at South Carolina, Geros stretched Mandy Carvalho to 7-6 in the first set playing at number six singles. If this were Hollywood, Geros would have pulled out the second set and carried the Tide to victory, but this is the SEC, the nation's toughest tennis conference, so instead Geros fell 6-0.

The moral of this story is clear though. Alabama may not have its 'A' team out on the court right now. With its record standing at 0-11 that's obvious. But it has a dedicated coach and a scrappy group of Alabama students who are not going to let the fact that they are badly overmatched stop them from trying.

NCAA Qualifiers

Junior diver Brent Roberts won the platform event at the NCAA Zone "B" Diving Championships to earn a trip to the NCAA

Championship meet in Auburn. Roberts will be Alabama's only representative in this year's men's meet.

On the women's side of the slate, Birmingham native Karen Jones, a senior, will head a three-woman contingent headed for Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the NCAA Championships. Also making the trip will be sophomores Nora Zhong and Keri Coy.

Academic Achievers

A total of 12 members of the Alabama swimming and diving team were selected to the SEC Academic Honor Roll. They include Jill DeVasher of Tuscaloosa, who is now enrolled in Alabama's MBA program and who holds a 4.0 grade point average as an undergraduate. Others are Jen Buffington, Sarah Burns, Keri Coy, Brooks Donoho, Mark Jollands, Karen Jones, Laura Lloyd, Matt Pendleton, Alan Rose, Marc Schrader and Nora Zhong.

Play With Mike

Alabama Head Football Coach Mike DuBose will again conduct his Charities Golf Tour with the event expanded this year to include an event in Atlanta.

Tour events are May 11-12 at Magnolia Grove Golf Course in Mobile, May 18-19 at Stone Mountain Golf Course in Atlanta, June 3-4 at Highland Oaks Golf Course in Dothan, June 24-25 at Cambrian Ridge Golf Course in Greenville, July 15-16 at Hampton Cove Golf Course in Huntsville, and July 22-23 at Oxmoor Valley Golf Course in Birmingham. Each tour stop includes two days of activity, including Kid's Clinic, Fan Cookout and Golfer Reception on the first day and the tournament and awards luncheon on the second day.

In addition to playing golf (\$125 per player), the Fan Cookout is available for \$6 for adults and \$3 children, and there are sponsorship opportunities available. Playing space is limited to 30 four-man teams (60 teams in Birmingham only).

For more information or to obtain an application form, call (205) 425-5000 in Birmingham.

More Charity Golf

For the past eight years the Boys and Girls Club of Tuscaloosa has benefitted from the head basketball coach hosting a scramble golf tournament fund-raiser. Although at the time plans were made for this year's tournament the new basketball coach was not known, Athletics Director Bob Bockrath committed the new coach to host the tournament. Play will be May 7 at Tuscaloosa Country Club. Entry fee is \$150 per player. For more information or to obtain an application form call Mary Branch or Steve Hannum in Tuscaloosa (205) 553-3879.

Grand Slammers Golf

The Alabama Grand Slammers, the support group for Crimson Tide baseball, will have its annual scramble golf tournament April 10 at Woodland Forest Country Club in Tuscaloosa. Entry fee is \$65 per player if a Grand Slammer and \$80 for non-members. For more information or to obtain an application form call Greg Rhoden in Tuscaloosa (205) 556-5311.

It Appears Alabama Can't Lose

by Kirk McNair

Former Alabama player, ex-Tide assistant coach seem to be only finalists

Surely by the time this is read Alabama will have a new head men's basketball coach. When Athletics Director Bob Bockrath fired David Hobbs on February 2, one of the reasons given for making the announcement before the end of the season was in order to give Bockrath (a search committee of one) a head start on the replacement process. Good thing. Based on the lack of dispatch in this search, if he had waited until the end of the season, it appears Alabama would have missed having a coach for the entire late recruiting period (April 8-15).

It is easy to criticize Bockrath, but evidence indicates he may have gone about the business of looking for a new head basketball coach in precisely the correct manner. He admitted that he does not have a basketball background and so he talked to people who did, notably Arizona Head Coach Lute Olsen and Kentucky Athletics Director C.M. Newton. Bockrath had previously worked with Olsen. Newton first made a national name for himself as Alabama's head basketball coach in the 1970s.

Bockrath also personally went to basketball games where potential candidates were coaching in order to watch them in game action.

Then he started the interview process, which he said was completed prior to March 21.

Certainly there were missteps. It was unfortunate that some newspaper headlines were incorrect in saying that Oklahoma Coach Kelvin Sampson had "turned down the job." Sampson was never offered the job. What he turned down was any interest in being interviewed for the job, and it is true that Bockrath expressed a desire to interview Sampson. A few other coaches who may or may not have been on Bockrath's original list of 13 also said they were not interested. They include Rob Evans of Ole Miss, Bob Bender of Washington and Tim Floyd of Iowa State.

There were two known candidates and a suspicion that there was at least one more Bockrath had an interest in. The two who had interviewed for the position as of March 22 were Mark Gottfried of Murray State and James Green of Southern Miss. It may be that a third candidate is no longer available.

Others whose names were casually men-



Mark Gottfried



James Green

tioned were Mike Brey of Delaware and Melvin Watkins of North Carolina-Charlotte. The process was also complicated by Alabama not being the only school in search of a new coach. Arizona State, Michigan (which filled its spot), Virginia and Texas A&M were among those.

Meanwhile, those two greatest sources of misinformation—talk radio and the internet—had Bockrath in league with the devil. The "fact" was out that Gottfried wanted too much money, more than the head football coach was making. And the reason he wanted so much money was based on another "fact," that Gottfried had been offered a multi-million dollar contract by Arizona State. Never mind that these "facts" emerged before Gottfried (or any Gottfried representative) had talked to Bockrath (or any Alabama representative) about money and before Arizona State had made any contact whatsoever with Gottfried. A related "fact" was that Bockrath had offered Gottfried an insultingly low salary so that Gottfried would turn down the offer and Bockrath could hire his own man.

"His own man" is a euphemism for anyone but Gottfried, the people's choice. Bockrath no doubt remembers those same people were adamant to have Mike DuBose as head football coach and that resulted in a 4-7 football season. However, the differences in DuBose and Gottfried are substantial. It is safe to say that Alabama is the only major football program that would have been interested in DuBose as head coach in 1997 (or now for that matter), whereas Gottfried is a hot commodity, already a Division I head coach and certain to improve his position this year or soon after.

There was a report that Green's attorney was "drawing up the contract," even before Bockrath had interviewed Gottfried. (Green's attorney was drawing up a contract, but it was a new contract with Southern Miss, which very much wants to keep Green.)

The "mandate" story also continued to circulate, despite denials. That mandate is that University President Dr. Andrew Sorenson reportedly wanted a black head basketball coach. Bockrath denied he was given such instructions. However, it is no secret that athletics directors in general are anxious to hire minorities.

It is reasonable to suggest that Alabama cannot lose if the choices are down to Gottfried, who is 34, and Green, who is 39. There is little doubt that among fervent Alabama basketball fans the overwhelming choice is Gottfried, a former Tide player. However, there is no animosity towards Green, a former assistant coach for Bama.

While Gottfried is viewed as a can't miss coaching star in many circles, it is likely he has been over-hyped among Alabama supporters. While he has been successful at Murray State, Murray State was also successful before Gottfried arrived on the scene and can be expected to continue that success. However, Murray State is a mid-major, not a player at the level which Alabama aspires in the Southeastern Conference and nationally. Gottfried has never been head coach of a team that won an NCAA Tournament game. Indeed, his team did not look good in its first round loss to Rhode Island (although Rhode Island has since shown it is a very good team, the surprise of the tournament).

There is also a belief that Alabama fans would react to the selection of Gottfried by lining up to buy season tickets. That flies in the face of longtime fact, which is Alabama fans buy about one-third of the available basketball season tickets in the best of times.

Gottfried gets a lot of credit for being the recruiting genius behind the last UCLA national championship. There appears to be no question that Gottfried had a lot to do with Jim Harrick's success at UCLA and Harrick, now the head coach at Rhode Island, ranks among the many who give Gottfried the highest recommendation. Another in that Gottfried-booster camp is Gottfried's former college coach, Wimp Sanderson.

Gottfried has also proved that he can recruit the Alabama high school ranks as a handful of players on his team that won a school and conference record 29 games this year are from Alabama. But Crimson Tide fans know that Green knows something about recruiting, too. He was the member of Hobbs' staff credited with signing Antonio McDyess and Eric Washington, two recent NBA first round draft choices. And Bama hasn't had much success recruiting Mississippi since Green departed.

Green has also worked under some excellent coaches, including Tim Floyd of Iowa State, considered one of the nation's best. Floyd thought so much of Green he hired him away from Alabama to be his assistant head coach. And from there Green went to a dismal Southern Miss program and built that club into a 20-game winner this year. An unfortunate situation for Green is that he lost to Auburn in his last game (an NIT contest at Auburn).

There is also a thought that Green might bolt for Ole Miss at the first opportunity. Green is a former player for the Rebels.

Although it is impossible to know what asks and offers have been on the table, it is likely that Green (who is single) would be available at a lower salary than Gottfried (who has five children under the age of six).

Although recruiting season is just around the corner and although it would not be suggested that Alabama couldn't use an infusion of talent, for a couple of reasons beyond having no one on the recruiting trail in recent weeks, the possibility of Bama adding to its roles this spring is unlikely.

The good news is that Bama's three signees from the early period will be coming on board. They are Sam Haginas, Cedric Patton and Mark Kimbrough.

Haginas, 6-8, 230, was named Mr. Basketball in Alabama and was also named Player of the Year by *The Birmingham News*. He led UMS-Wright of Mobile (30-3) to the Class 3A state championship as he averaged 16.2 points and 8.5 rebounds per game and blocked 146 shots for the Bulldogs of Coach Kemper Todd. He was also all-state as a ju-

nior as he averaged 16.9 points and 9.0 rebounds per game.

Patton, 6-7, 170, who is expected to play a wing position in college as he did for Coach Ronnie Stapler at Huntsville Grissom, was overshadowed in publicity by his teammate, junior Marvin Stone. However, Patton quietly had a very fine year, averaging 15.1 points and 5.2 rebounds per game. He hit 53 percent from the field, including 41 percent from three-point range, and was second team all-state for a team that went 24-5.

Kimbrough, 6-4, 235, had an outstanding season for Coach Paul Swanson at Pensacola (Florida) Junior College. The power forward, who was a top prep performer at Dawson, Georgia, was an all-state and all-state tournament selection as his team made it to the state semifinals. He averaged 22.3 points, 8.5 rebounds and 2.1 assists per game.

These signees along with the returnees from last season give Alabama slightly more than a full boat. Haginas and Patton are academically eligible and Kimbrough is expected to be. Bama lost only two seniors from last year's team, Demetrius Alexander and Damon Bacote. That means Alabama is one over the limit of 13 scholarship players. However, that always works out.

Those returning next year include three starters—center Jeremy Hayes, wing guard Brian Williams and point guard Chauncey Jones. Also returning are Neil Ashby, Rongie Cowser, Terrence Martin, Tarik London, MC Mazique, Alfred Moss, Chris Rollins and Sam Williams. Williams was redshirted and Cowser played almost not at all. Rollins and Moss were injured and missed most of the season, Rollins having surgery on a broken wrist, Moss operated on after breaking an

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elbow. (Martin was also injured, but made it through the end of the season before he had arthroscopic knee surgery, which was deemed successful.)

Alabama's recruiting situation (and entire basketball situation, for that matter) is complicated by the curious Tyrone Beaman situation. Beaman was suspended from basketball duties in late January, then reinstated in mid-February. There has been the release of a tape in which he was questioned (and denied guilt) by Bockrath, Faculty Chairman of Athletics Gene Marsh and Associate Athletics Director for Compliance Marie

Robbins about the possibility of seeking money for illegal recruiting. Beaman and Hobbs now have attorneys and there is a threat of a suit against the athletics department.

Beaman had been actively recruiting in the Houston, Texas, area, where he had obtained commitments from one of the top players in Texas, forward Cedric Taylor. Bama no longer has that commitment, but in any event Taylor is a long-shot to qualify academically and is likely headed to junior college. Taylor's teammate, 6-5 junior guard Antonio Falu, also committed to Alabama,

but that commitment was always considered shaky. Bama's new coach conceivably could get back involved with Falu. However, recruiting in the Houston area just got a lot tougher because Houston has a new coach in Clyde Drexler, an all-time great for the Cougars who is playing his final year in the NBA for the Houston Rockets.

In the past, the Tide had been mentioned with one of the top players of the year, 6-10 center Rashard Lewis of Alief, Texas. The latest information is that Lewis has narrowed his choices to Kansas, Florida State, Houston or jumping straight to the NBA.

Fine Year For Women Overshadowed By Controversy

It is amazing what people who have little or no knowledge will do and say. The Alabama women's basketball team of Coach Rick Moody was one of the Cinderella stories of 1998, but because of circumstances beyond the control of the players or coaches, Bama was vilified like a wicked step-sister.

The cause of the consternation? Alabama trailed UCLA 74-73 with eight-tenths of a second to play in a second round NCAA Tournament game at Coleman Coliseum in Tuscaloosa. Britney Ezell threw an inbounds pass from beneath the UCLA basket. The pass hit Alabama's Dominique Canty, who tipped it to Latoya Caudle, who threw up the winning basket. It was obvious the game officials had made a mistake in allowing Ezell to run the baseline before making her pass. Moreover, television replays showed the clock did not start the instant the ball was touched by Canty.

What did this mean? It meant for the gazillionth time in history officiating played a part in the outcome of a game. Had Alabama not won the game, the Crimson Tide could have pointed to numerous errors on the part of the officials as part of the reason for the outcome. However, the officials are part of the game.

When Arkansas was given credit for a touchdown pass completion against Alabama a few years ago, even though the ball clearly hit the ground before it was caught, there was brief comment about it, but everyone knew that once the call had been made the game was over. A Birmingham columnist who wasn't even interested enough in Curtis Brown's catch against Auburn a few years ago, a catch that was incorrectly ruled incomplete, watched 1.8 seconds of the Alabama-UCLA game and declared he hoped Alabama lost its next game. Another Birmingham columnist/radio commentator called for Alabama to forfeit, never mind that there is no mechanism for one team to present victory to another after the game has ended. (Of



Rick Moody

course, that particular "journalist" has the appearance of having an agenda since he is a Tennessee alumnus and Alabama had been the one team that had shown it could beat Tennessee this year. Moody's reaction to the suggestion of forfeit? "Asinine." The NCAA pointed out that if Alabama had forfeited, it would simply have meant Louisiana Tech would have no opponent in the first round of the Regional Tournament.

The hysteria in Los Angeles, where UCLA averaged about 400 fans per game, was such that a former UCLA basketball and volleyball player said she was going to send back all her NCAA awards. UCLA's coach made a grandstand plea to end the use of home courts in first and second round games. It will be interesting to see if UCLA gives up the home court advantage if it ever qualifies as one of the top 16 seeds in the tournament. A good bet? UCLA will graciously agree to serve as home team.

The NCAA ruled correctly that once the game was over, it was over. Just as the

Arkansas and Auburn football games had been over. Just as a thousand other games have been over.

Can you imagine the situation if every game that was decided by a wrong decision by a human official resulted in the firestorm of idiocy as did this one? No one would follow sports.

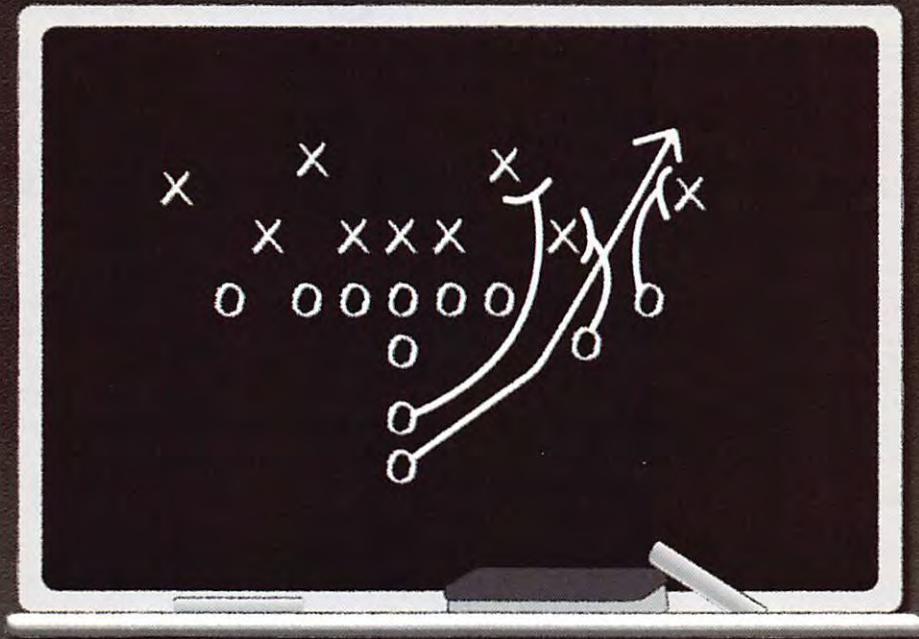
The Birmingham columnist who wished for Alabama's defeat in its next game got his wish. Alabama was eliminated from the NCAA Tournament by Louisiana Tech, 71-57. It was interesting to note that the columnist covered UAB spring football practice rather than the NCAA game. So he probably doesn't know that Louisiana Tech shot 21 free throws in that game, Alabama three. There was no mention as to whether a healthy Latrish Jones might have made a difference. Jones had to play the game in a mask after she was elbowed and suffered a broken nose in the UCLA game. By the way, there was no call on that incident.

That loss didn't detract from the Crimson Tide's season. Alabama had not been given national recognition prior to the start of the year. Bama was picked to finish in the middle of the pack in the Southeastern Conference.

Alabama finished with a 24-10 record and was second in the SEC in both regular season play and in the SEC Tournament. It was Alabama's seventh consecutive season to win 20 or more games. Bama was undefeated in home games and extended its Coleman Coliseum winning streak to 19 games. In addition to earning a number two seed in the NCAA Tournament and reaching the Sweet 16, Alabama was ranked 11th in the nation in final polls prior to the NCAA Tournament.

Alabama loses five seniors, including starters Tausha Mills, Leah Goss and Britney Ezell, from its 1998 team. But a good bet is that Moody will have another fine squad in 1999.

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Travis Carroll:

Linebacker Has High Aspirations

by Kirk McNair

Sophomore has understanding of expectations and of what he must do to meet them

When Alabama listed its all-star candidates prior to the start of spring football practice, most were predictable. Tailback Shaun Alexander and cornerback Fernando Bryant and offensive tackle Chris Samuels are being pushed for All-America. Wide receivers Quincy Jackson and Michael Vaughn have the statistics to be considered for all-star honors. Kelvin Sigler is considered a top safety. Defensive lineman Kenny Smith was named Freshman All-America last year, so it's not a surprise to see his name on the nominations list.

At first blush, one might not expect to see the name of the other all-star nominee, but Travis Carroll has the right stuff. And he plays a marquee position, middle linebacker. Carroll, who was a part-time starter as a true freshman last year, has already earned one honor. The *Knoxville News-Sentinel* selected him to the Freshman All-Southeastern Conference team last year. And this year he is bigger and stronger.

Last year Carroll was in excellent condition, but at a cost. He was a 6-4, 220-pounder. This year he's an inch taller and he attributes Bama's strength and conditioning program to him being 25 pounds heavier. That's 245 pounds of mostly muscle. "Hopefully," he said, "I'll keep the weight on and have a little more punch in my britches. Last year I was a little light."

One reason he was light was his belief in being in great shape. Prior to arriving in Tuscaloosa, that meant primarily running. He ran himself into good condition, but he also ran himself down to only 220 pounds.

"I didn't lift a lot prior to last year," he said. "You can build size and strength, but it's a lot harder to build speed. I wanted to keep my speed."

Because Carroll can move that weight 40 yards in just under 4.6 seconds, he's an ideal prospect for middle linebacker.

Carroll is proud of his Freshman All-SEC

plaque. "That was an honor," he said. "Everyone wants to be recognized. I want to be first team All-America. My goal when I came here was to be a star. I want to make every play. I'm not cocky, but I am a perfectionist. That's the way I was raised. I want to make everything happen."

But, he said, he also realizes that honors don't always have a great deal of meaning. "It's not always a reflection of performance," he said. "I think sometimes people get the shaft when it comes to awards and sometimes people get awards they probably haven't earned on the field. I just hope that any honors I get, I've earned."

Carroll is no stranger to honors. As a prep star at The Bolles School in Jacksonville, Florida, he was a first team high school All-America and listed by *SuperPrep* as the number one linebacker prospect in the nation. He was a two-time all-state performer as he recorded 176 tackles with seven sacks, 29 tackles behind the line of scrimmage and two interceptions as a junior and 150 tackles, seven sacks and 22 tackles behind the line of scrimmage in his senior campaign.

Carroll was one of three players from Bolles who signed with Alabama prior to the 1997 season. He was joined by defensive lineman Sam Matthews, who is not going to move to offense, and by quarterback Chris Reier, who has been shifted to cornerback. "I look forward to the day when I'm starting at middle linebacker and Sam is in front of me and Chris is behind me," Carroll said. (He calls Reier, who is his roommate, his "best friend," and predicts he will also be a star for the Tide.)

"Having three of us come in together really helped me adjust," Carroll said. "I've made a lot of new friends—I'm friends with everyone on the team—but it was great to have Sam and Chris with me to get started in college."

The Jacksonville native was recruited by another Jacksonville native, Tide Linebacker Coach Jeff Rouzie. And in the new Bama coaching alignment, Rouzie will be coaching only one linebacker—the middle linebacker.

"I expect to hear my name called a lot by Coach Rouzie," Carroll said.

Carroll hit it off quickly when he was the prospect and Rouzie the recruiter. "He was the only recruiter who I thought was straight with me," Carroll said. "He was the only one who didn't tell me I was going to start as a freshman. He told me I'd have a chance to start if I came in in good shape and worked hard, but he said it would be up to me, that there were no promises."

Carroll is one of some eight defensive players considered to be a returning starter. However, Carroll, who started only four games last year, said, "I don't consider myself a starter. But it wouldn't matter, because I think a football player has to earn his position every day in practice. I plan on earning the position this spring and then again next fall."

Last year he was the starter against Tennessee, Louisiana Tech, Mississippi State and Auburn. All were disappointing games in that they were part of an incredible seven Crimson Tide defeats. "It was weird," Carroll said. "I don't think I'd been a part of seven losses in my entire career prior to last year. Year-in and year-out, Alabama is one of the best. We're going to return to prominence this season. I plan to have all the rings before I leave here."

Carroll said the difference in his approach to the game this year as opposed to last season is "Now I know the defense. That means there are no excuses. If I go out and perform mentally and physically, I'll win the position."

He said, "You can't take anything for granted in college football. I feel that I have to make an impression on my coaches and

on my teammates every day."

Carroll got better as the season went along in 1997. He had his best two games in the final two weeks of the season, six primary tackles (including three behind the line of scrimmage) and three assists against Mississippi State, then a game-high 10 tackles against Auburn. Even though he played only about half the time, he finished the year with 30 primary tackles, 18 assists, nine tackles for 27 yards in losses, two quarterback sacks, one caused fumble, one recovered fumble and five quarterback pressures.

"I tried to play my very best on every play, but I was particularly conscious of that in the Auburn game," he said. "I really wanted to win that game for the seniors. We came close. It was a shame to lose that game."

He said his position is expected to "first stop the run, just like a cornerback's first responsibility is to play pass defense. I have some pass responsibility, but I hope that the middle linebacker will continue to be involved in passing situations primarily on the blitz. I love the blitz. I hope we have even more than we had last year."

In 1997 Carroll spent most of the season backing up Paul Pickett, who has graduated. "Paul is a good player and I learned a lot from him," Carroll said. "This year I'll be competing with two other good football players, Chris Edwards and Granison Wagstaff. They'll hit people and they've been here awhile, so they know what's going on. We're all good friends and try to help one another. It's friendly competition."

The upcoming sophomore said in order to be the football player he wants to be, "I have to improve in everything. You can't ever be perfect, but you can strive for perfection. You have to keep working on everything—on the field, in the weight room, studying the playbook and watching film. You have to keep striving every year and every day to be better."

He said he would spend basically the entire summer in Tuscaloosa working out in preparation for 1998.

Carroll said he expected college football to be far more physical than it had been in high school. What surprised him, he said, was the mental. "The mental part is far more difficult," he said of the assignments of the middle linebacker. One of those assignments is making the defensive calls after getting signals from a coach on the



Travis Carroll gave plenty of indication in his freshman year that he is going to be an excellent football player. The middle linebacker hopes to be Alabama's "field general" and starting middle linebacker this year. He is being pushed as an all-star candidate.

Barry Fikes Photo

sidelines. The position is frequently equated to "quarterback of the defense." Carroll looks forward to that aspect of the position.

"I want to have full responsibility for the defense," he said. "I want to be the field general. I was a little hesitant to take on that role last year because I was a freshman and didn't think anyone would listen to me, but this year I want to earn that right."

Carroll considers himself to have a "Linebacker Mentality." He said that means, "You don't care about your body. You go out and hit people as hard as you can. You have a love of the game. Football is contact and contact is the definition of a linebacker."

There's a game on Alabama's schedule

that draws a peek from Carroll. On October 3, Alabama will host Florida. "I'll have a lot of friends on the other side in that game," Carroll said. "That will be like my Auburn game." Although a national recruit, Carroll's final choices did not include any of the three Florida schools. Georgia was the runner-up for Carroll's services.

Carroll said that one thing he learned last year is the importance of the Alabama-Auburn game. "I had heard about it, of course, but coming from Jacksonville, I just assumed it was like the Florida-Florida State game or the Florida State-Miami game," he said. "Now I understand that Alabama-Auburn is much bigger. I can't wait for this year's game."

"But," he added, "BYU comes first."

Jason McDonald:

He Has Accepted His Position

by Donald F. Staffo



Junior has positive attitude about making move from tackle to guard on offense

Big ol' boys are frequently listed in rosters and recruiting publications as "OL," meaning offensive linemen. But there are three basic types of offensive linemen—centers, guards and tackles. Moreover, two of those—guards and tackles—are also somewhat specialized.

Jason McDonald had always been an offensive lineman, and more than that, he had always been a tackle. He had been a star tackle in high school, he had been a tackle in 1995 while he toiled on the scout team as a freshman at Alabama, and he had been a tackle in 1996, when he finally began to earn some playing time.

And he wasn't happy when he was moved to guard last fall.

"I didn't want to be a guard and I developed a bad attitude," McDonald said. As a result, he said, "I didn't do the things early in the season that I needed to do, and that hurt me. By the time I came around, it was too late to get the kind of playing time that I got the year before."

As a redshirt freshman in 1996, McDonald had seen action in nine games. Last year, playing behind Will Friend at left guard and Brenon Meadows at right guard, his playing time went down.

He anticipates being the Alabama starting left guard in 1998, his junior season. McDonald thinks his primary competition will come from junior college transfer Todd Whitmore and, perhaps, some incoming freshmen. "I see myself starting," he said. "There's no reason that I shouldn't be starting. But I will have to work for it."

That work has begun this spring, and McDonald was listed number one at left guard when spring work got under way. "It really doesn't matter where he's listed on the depth chart right now," said Offensive

Jason McDonald had a dream to play football at Alabama. He expected to be a tackle, his prep All-America position, but he has been moved to guard, where he has started out spring training as the projected starter. Kent Gidley Photo

Coordinator Neil Callaway. "We're going to play with the best five. We're going to line them up at the positions we think they are best suited for."

Callaway, who also coaches the offensive linemen and made the decision to move McDonald to guard. "We thought he would be better suited for guard," Callaway said. "He's big and takes up a lot of room on the inside." The coach added that there is not a lot of difference in the positions. "The guard has to be more physical inside," he said.

McDonald, 6-6, 315, says that he now realizes that guard is probably where he is better suited. "I'm big enough to play tackle, but I didn't have the quickness," he said. "The tackle is more out there on an island by himself doing one-on-one blocking, whereas at guard, with the defender right on top of you, you can make up for any lack of speed. At guard you also get help because people are right next to you."

"I'm actually a real big guard, but I think now that I can be more effective as a guard."

McDonald, who bench presses right at 400 pounds, squats close to 500 pounds and runs the 40-yard dash in 5.0 seconds, said he had turned one of his weaknesses into a strength. "I've gotten a lot stronger, but I still need to be more physical," he said.

Callaway agreed. "He's a big strong guy who runs pretty good," said the coach. "He's a physical guy who has a lot of natural ability. He needs to keep improving like he did last year. He got better as the season went on. He only needs to get more playing time, more experience."

McDonald grew up following Alabama football, and he never expected to see the Crimson Tide have a 4-7 record. And he certainly didn't expect to be a part of such a team, as he was last season. But the most important thing to McDonald is that such a record doesn't happen again while he's playing.

Like most kids who have grown up as football fans in the South, McDonald thought of Alabama as a championship contender. "It seemed Alabama won almost every week," he said. "I don't ever remember Alabama going 4-7." There's a good reason for that. Alabama never went 4-7 in the lifetime of McDonald, who will be 21 on May 26. McDonald said the 1997 season was "a trying time for us because we had a lot of young players and we were going through a growing period."

McDonald said he and his teammates have used last year's experience to help it from reoccurring. "With the season we had, it kind of gave us motivation," he said. "No one wants that to happen again. It was tough not going to a bowl game, because around here you are used to going to bowl games. Last year we didn't go to a bowl game and we

had to watch other teams playing in bowls. It has definitely made us hungry."

He said that everyone on Bama's football team came with the expectation of winning a national championship. "I've been here two years and we haven't really won anything," he said. "That makes you work a little harder, especially since you know we've got the talent to compete for a championship."

He said he thinks that desire was evident in work following the 1997 season. "I think we have worked harder and gotten better," McDonald said. "I think that we will be physically and mentally tougher next season."

As a SuperPrep All-America for Coach Joe Downey at Theodore High School, Jason was regarded as the number one offensive line prospect in the state following his senior season in 1994. He had graded over 90 per cent for the year for the Bobcats. He had also been a starter as a junior, earning all-state mention.

As a 6-6, 285-pound prospect, McDonald

drew the recruiting attention of all of the schools in the Southeastern Conference, plus such traditional powers as Notre Dame, Nebraska and Michigan. He narrowed his college choices to Alabama, Auburn, Notre Dame and Mississippi State before picking the Tide. It wasn't a surprising choice. "I grew up an Alabama fan and it was my dream and my family's dream for me to play at Alabama," he said.

McDonald said the highlight of his Crimson Tide career thus far was playing in his first Auburn game in 1996. "Growing up in the South, everyone knows that Alabama-Auburn is such a big-time rivalry. It was a tremendous experience to play in the game. And winning the game was something that makes you feel really good."

This year McDonald has a short-term goal of earning a starting job on the Crimson Tide offensive line. His team goal, as it is for almost everyone who wears Crimson and White, is to win the national championship. The management major also hopes to play professional football one day, but he has made earning his degree top priority.



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The Phillips:

Reunited Cousins Help Tide Baseball

by Peter Edmund

Andy and Paul Phillips are thrilled to be teammates

From the time they were old enough to grip a bat and throw a baseball, Andy and Paul Phillips have had dreams of playing big-time baseball together.

As first cousins growing up in Demopolis, they tried to spend every minute of every day together. Whether it was playing baseball, going to school or sitting together in church, one was almost never seen without the other.

They were very close, best friends. In fact, they seemed more like brothers than cousins. The bond is still there today.

Andy was born April 6, 1977 to Larry and Linda Phillips. Paul came along nine days later to Mack and Betty Phillips. Larry and Mack are brothers and out of the same mold. Their sons followed in their footsteps as best friends, too.

"We lived down the street from one another and we were more like brothers than cousins," Andy said.

"When we were young we had this little place by his house where we played ball every day," Paul added. "It didn't matter if we were two or three years old, we were always together playing ball. And if you were able to hit over the tree, you were really the big guy."

As kids, Paul was the quick one, while Andy was the stronger. As teammates for the nationally-ranked Alabama baseball team, those roles are pretty much the same. Paul gets around the bases in a hurry, while Andy hits the ball farther.

In those childhood days of baseball in Demopolis, every pick-up game was similar. Paul would get on base and Andy would drive him home. They formed a deadly run-producing duo even as kids. As the two grew older, the home runs were more frequent and that almost ended the game.

"There was a big dog that lived next door

Andy Phillips, Alabama's third baseman, is the clean-up hitter for the Crimson Tide.

Robert Sutton Photo

and it was pretty scary to go and get the ball when someone hit the ball over the fence into the neighbor's yard," Paul said. "We always asked the lady to get the baseball."

"Actually, the dog's name was Darter, a big, black German shepherd," Andy remembered. "Mrs. Glover would always have to come out and get the baseball because we were too scared to go get the ball. Sometimes, we would stand near the fence and trick the dog while someone else went to the other end of the fence to get the baseball."

The games continued even after the boys started first grade and continued every day for the next three years until the two met adversity for the first time. It was during their third grade year that Paul's family decided to move to Meridian, Mississippi. Mack worked in Meridian and the 100-mile round trip journey to and from work every day had finally taken its toll.

The boys were going to be separated for the first time in their eight years. To them, it seemed like the end of the world.

"We were really a little angry at one another because I had to leave," Paul said. "It wasn't either of our faults, but we had a little bitterness towards each other because one of us had to leave. I was mad at Andy because he got to stay and he was mad at me for leaving. It would have been hard had we been older, and I probably would have moved in with his family and finished school had I been in high school."

Andy remembers the lonely days, too. "There was nobody else our age to play ball with when he left," Andy said. "It was kind of dull when he left."

Both would survive the mini-tragedy and both would enjoy stellar high school careers. Both were the stars of their teams and played on several state championship squads.

Andy prepped at Demopolis Academy, where he lettered five times each in football, basketball and baseball. In baseball, he batted .453 with 19 career home runs. He played on three private school state championship teams (1990, 1993 and 1995). He was named the AISA Player of the Year by the *Tuscaloosa News* and *Montgomery Advertiser*.

As a senior, he batted .463 with six home runs and 33 runs batted in. On the mound, he was 4-1 with a 1.06 earned run average. His two pitching highlights came against Ashford in 1993 and Marion Academy in 1994. As a senior, Phillips beat Ashford in the AISA state championship game, striking out 10 batters in a 14-1 win. In 1994, he threw a five-inning perfect game with 10 strikeouts in the 12-0 win over Marion Academy.

He was also a standout quarterback for the Generals football team. Phillips threw for more than 3,000 yards and 30 career touchdowns. As a guard on the basketball team, he averaged almost 20 points per game as a junior and senior.

While Andy was enjoying the rewards of high school baseball in Demopolis, Paul was equally successful at West Lauderdale High School about 50 miles away and just over the state line in Mississippi.

As a senior, Paul batted .509 with seven home runs and 50 RBI for Coach Jerry Boatner. He was also named to the *Jackson Clarion-Ledger's* Dandy Dozen. He was also a Dixie Boys National Amateur All-State selection, as well as all-district and all-county. Paul was a member of four consecutive state championship baseball teams while at West Lauderdale.

"We were always busy in high school," Andy said. "We were both on the go, but we always tried to keep in touch. I knew they won almost every game and won the state championship every year. He had so much success in high school and I wanted to be there and see the good things happening to him, but I had my games and could not go. It was very hard."

Upon graduation from high school both still had visions of playing baseball together. They just didn't know when or where, but the dream was still there. Andy signed a scholarship to play for Coach Jim Wells and the University of Alabama, a dream come true. Paul signed with Meridian Community College.

Both were immediate stars. Paul was a two-year starter for Coach Corky Palmer (1996) and Scott Berry (1997) at MCC, where he batted .371 with 22 home runs and 122 RBI in two seasons. He also pitched and went 5-0 with a 2.32 ERA.

In his first year at MCC, Phillips batted .369 with 10 home runs and 56 RBI leading the Eagles to the conference, state and regional championships. After that MCC played in the Junior College World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado. Phillips' team lost in the championship game to Northeast Texas, led by Roberto Vaz, who would be an All-America at Alabama in 1997.

"After the loss at the World Series, I felt empty," Paul said. "There was something missing, I just didn't know what it was."

The next year, Paul hit .374 with 12 home runs and 72 RBI in 56 games. The Eagles lost in the sectionals and did not advance into further post-season action.

Meanwhile, 90 miles away, cousin Andy was beginning his career with the Crimson Tide. The year before Andy's arrival at Sewell-

Thomas Stadium, Alabama had turned around its baseball fortunes winning the Southeastern Conference Western Division Tournament and placing second in the NCAA East Regional. Alabama missed the College World Series by two games.

Though only a freshman, Andy made immediate impact on a talented Alabama team. In 46 games, he batted .238 with three home runs and 13 RBI. He started 27 games for an Alabama team that advanced to the College World Series. He singled in his first career game against Georgia Tech and added his first RBI against North Carolina. His first home run came in a 14-11 win at Vanderbilt on March 31.

In the post-season, he batted .300 (3-for-10) with one home run and three RBI. He smacked a two-run home run in the Tide's NCAA South I Regional win over Princeton.

Last year, Phillips had his finest year batting .366 (102-for-279) with 15 home runs and 65 RBI. He was named to the SEC All-Tournament Team, NCAA South II Regional All-Tournament Team and the College World Series All-Tournament Team.

He tied an Alabama record with five hits in the Crimson Tide's 22-7 win at Auburn on April 12. He also scored a career-high five runs.

On April 25, Phillips' ninth-inning home run gave Alabama an 11-10 win over Arkansas at Sewell-Thomas Stadium.

Andy batted .308 (8-for-26) with three extra base hits and five RBI. He smacked a three-run home run to help Alabama beat Mississippi State in game three of the College World Series.

During the 1997 season, Paul signed with the Crimson Tide and for the first time since third grade the Phillips cousins could anticipate playing together on the same field when the 1998 season began.

Actually, the two spent a little time together the last two summers playing for the Liberal (Kansas) BeeJays in the Jayhawk League. Andy and Paul played four games together in 1996 after Andy's first trip to the College World Series with the Crimson Tide. Last summer, they played together, but not until Andy joined the team after Alabama's runner-up finish to LSU in the 1997 College World Series.

"I remember watching the game and just begging for Alabama to win the national championship," Paul recalls. "I'd sit in front of the TV and watch every game I could."

Andy joined his cousin a week later and they spent the rest of the summer playing baseball together and remembering the days as children in Demopolis. They remembered



Paul Phillips was reunited with his cousin, Andy, when he signed to play with Bama prior to this season. He is Bama's center fielder and leadoff hitter.

Robert Sutton Photo

the good times, the bad times and the big German shepherd. And they looked forward to the coming school year.

The month of August rolled around and the two were playing together for the Crimson Tide. Andy, a pre-season All-SEC third baseman, was going to be one of the leaders. Paul, a transfer, could play all nine positions and would get his chance to play any spot in the field.

After the fall workouts and off-season weight training, the two came back to school in January with the sights set firmly on opening day. And when that day finally arrived, the two were in the lineup together for the first time since third grade.

"He is the main reason I came here," Paul said. "I had other offers from Division I schools. I can remember the phone call I got from (Alabama Assistant) Coach (Todd) Butler expressing an interest in me at Alabama.

"I thought about the other offers and then I realized if I went somewhere else, I would never play with Andy. My family would never get to see me play on a regular basis. Family is important and playing with Andy is

something we have talked about for a long, long time. Alabama is a great program, so here I am."

Andy is glad the decision was made. "The thing you look back at is the many years we missed not getting to spend time together," he said. "But it makes this time even more special. They say anything worth having is worth waiting for."

The Phillips cousins have certainly made an impact for the Crimson Tide. Paul has been Bama's leadoff hitter and center fielder and leading hitter for average, over the .400 mark. Andy is the team's cleanup hitter. During the last week of February, Andy hit .444 with two home runs and 10 RBI, including the game-winning home run to beat Cal-State Fullerton. Later he would crush a three-run homer to give Alabama a win over Georgia.

"Now I am here and playing together every day has been a blast," Paul said. "Every day has been a new blessing. It's hard to describe the feeling of being on second base and seeing my cousin, who is like my brother, come

to the plate and deliver a hit that drives me home."

Andy shares that enthusiasm.

"It's very exciting," Andy said. "I never got to see him play much, but I knew the type of player he was. First of all, I knew he could help this program a lot. Plus, I knew we would be playing together at Alabama. It was all very exciting."

"There something about that family thing when you battle in the same situations. There's this closeness with your own flesh and blood. Every time he steps to the plate, it's almost like I step to the plate. I can't root for him enough."

While neither predicted what the future holds on or off the field, they want to remember the good times and cherish the moments they will share as the Tide looks for a third straight trip to Omaha.

"It's a lot of fun to know that we are together again, and playing together for The University of Alabama," Andy said. "It's kind of like being little kids again. It brings back some fond memories."

Only this time, the field is a little bit bigger.

Tide High In Championship Season

by Andrew Varble II

Alabama will host Central Regional Meet on April 4

Coaches Sarah and David Patterson have taken the Alabama Gymnastics team to the NCAA Championships 15 consecutive years. In fact, since the title tilt's inauguration in 1982, the Crimson Tide has missed the championships only once, that first year. That year, 10 teams earned bids; Alabama was 11th.

The Pattersons and their charges have enjoyed phenomenal success during gymnastics' championship season. Alabama has won three Southeastern Conference Championships, 13 NCAA Regional titles and three NCAA Championships. Moreover, at the NCAA Championships, Alabama has finished in the top-four 13 times and in the top-two an amazing seven times.

In fact, in the last 15 years, Alabama has finished out of the top six only once, and that was last season when a spate of late season injuries to key athletes hampered the Tide's scoring power. Alabama finished ninth in 1997.

With all that in mind, 1998, the Pattersons' 20th anniversary at the helm of the Crimson Tide, is in a rebuilding year of sorts. If the regular season is any indication,

the rebuilding has been swift, effective and enjoyable.

"This is the most fun David and I have had in quite a while," Sarah Patterson said. "These ladies came in from day one with an incredible attitude and a willingness, an eagerness, to work extremely hard. They also bonded into a tight knit group very quickly."

The 1998 edition of the Tide is a young group, sporting only three seniors and two juniors in contrast to five freshmen and three sophomores. The lineup has been an effective blend of old and new.

Alabama's regular season didn't start out as smoothly as Tide fans are used to, but that was no surprise to Patterson. She predicted before the season that Alabama's young team would experience growing pains early in the season. Alabama lost its season-opener to



Gwen Spidle was not involved in Alabama's all-around competition until a change in collegiate rules enabled her to use the more difficult Yurchenko vault, on which she had earned her reputation. Now, with Robin Hawkins out for the year, Spidle is Bama's best and ranked among the top performers in the nation

Kent Gidley Photo

Minnesota in Minneapolis. The Golden Gophers brought a seasoned team and home floor advantage to the table, a combination that proved too much for Alabama. Alabama returned home to take on number one-ranked Georgia, a team known for its quick start. Alabama kept it close against the Lady Dogs, but eventually fell by less than a point.

Because gymnastics ranking is based entirely on scoring, not on win-loss record, Alabama, despite two losses, had scored high enough to hold the nation's number two rank. That notwithstanding, Patterson and her group, hungry for a win, headed to the Plains looking to turn things around. Alabama has owned Auburn over the past 20 years, and going into this year's meeting, sported a 29-0 record in dual meets. Despite some bobbles early in the meet, Alabama rebounded to run its streak up to 30-0 and move to 1-2.

Having already faced the nation's number 13, number 1 and number 23 teams, Alabama's slate only got harder. Over the next four weeks, Patterson and company faced number 3 Penn State, number 4 Florida, number 1 Georgia again (in Athens this time) and number 8 Kentucky. Alabama came away

from the murderers' row 3-1. Alabama also came away from that stretch with a solid line-up that had settled the Tide into a number three national ranking. It was a lineup without superstars, striving through teamwork.

Alabama's trio of seniors, Danielle McAdams, Merritt Booth and Shay Murphy, all brought a renewed determination into their final season. Booth and McAdams have provided Alabama dependable scoring punch on three events each. Murphy is enjoying a rebound season of her own. After tearing her anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee during last year's pre-season, the Canton, Michigan, native returned to the lineup, helping spark the injury plagued squad to its 15th NCAA Championship meet. This year, Murphy has picked up where she left off last season, holding down the leadoff spot on the balance beam, a testament in the coaches' faith in her steadiness and scoring ability. Her floor routine has become exceptional. Always a popular performer on the floor, Murphy has exploded this year, becoming not only a Coleman Coliseum favorite, but also a national power. She has taken her explosive tumbling and stylishly chore-

ographed routine all the way to third in the rankings and has scored 9.925 or better four times to this point in the season, including a career and team high 9.95 against Georgia.

Junior Gwen Spidle moved into the all-around lineup after spending her freshman year as a one event specialist and last season working three events. The move was facilitated by a change in the rules allowing the difficult Yurchenko vault to be done in collegiate competition. The Yurchenko involves doing a round off onto the springboard before hitting the vault. It was Spidle's signature vault in high school. Coming to college, she found she could not go back to a 'normal' vault. Once the rule changed, the Gallatin, Missouri, native hit the all-around with a vengeance, winning it three times and climbing as high as third nationally.

Spidle was joined in the all-around by freshman sensation Robin Hawkins. With her infectious grin and explosive routines, Hawkins quickly became a crowd favorite. She won the all-around against Minnesota and was the Tide's top finisher against Georgia the next week. She climbed to fifth in the national all-around rankings, making her the nation's best freshman.

Hawkins wasn't the only freshman making

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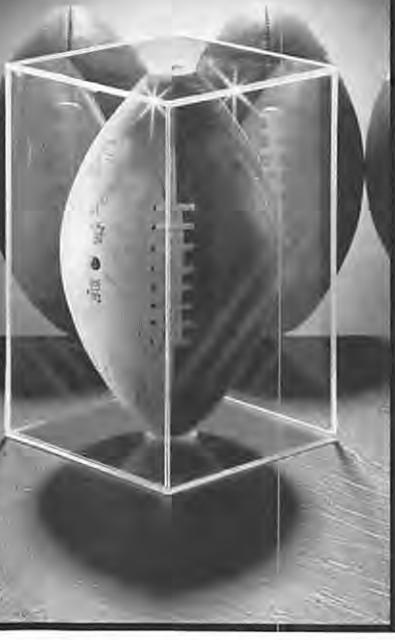
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an early season impact. Fellow Memphian Lissy Smith has made a name for herself as one of the Tide's most composed balance beam workers, providing the team with a consistent, unflappable presence in the middle of the lineup. Hoover native Dara Stewart spent most of her teen years watching Alabama gymnastics from the stands. The first time she marched out with the Tide to be introduced, as the spotlight swept onto her and her name was announced, tears slid down her face. Not content just to make the team, Stewart has backed up her pride by becoming one of the nation's best uneven bars workers. She became the first Alabama native since Huntsville's Dee Dee Foster to win an event for the Crimson Tide when she took first on the bars against Penn State. She is currently ranked tenth nationally. Bloomingdale, Illinois, native Katie Hornecker has provided Alabama with solid scoring punch on the vault and the floor exercise. April Makinson is the only freshman not currently in the lineup. A wrist injury early in the season has hampered the Seneca, South Carolinian. Now healthy she provides the Tide with solid depth on several events, a luxury Alabama has not enjoyed in recent years.

Sophomores Lexa Evans and Gina Logan have worked their way into the lineup this season with Evans steadily improving on the uneven bars and Logan working in on the beam and bars.

With its lineup set and solid, Alabama went into its eighth meet of the season a home contest against Arizona State, North Carolina State and Massachusetts, looking to polish routines and prepare for the post season. After posting solid performances on its first three routines, Alabama's season took what could have been a disastrous turn during the floor exercise. Hawkins, in the midst of her second tumbling pass, landed a triple full twist and went down. The music stopped and silence blanketed the Coliseum. A quick examination by team doctors confirmed the Pattersons' fear. Hawkins had a torn ACL and was out for the season.

"I feel extremely bad for Robin," Patterson said. "She was having a tremendous year. But I am not worried about her. She's very tough and I know that she will be back. This is such a close-knit team and that's very good a majority of the time, but in this situation it makes it hard. I knew Robin would be all right, but I wasn't sure about her teammates, especially her roommates."

Missing one of its best, Alabama traveled to Baton Rouge for its last regular season road contest of the year. The question was, how would Alabama react. The answer was quick and emphatic. With a lineup filled with fa-

miliar faces in new places, Alabama posted its second highest score of the season. Evans stepped into the floor exercise lineup for the first time all season with a 9.7 while Smith scored a 9.775 in only her second floor outing of the season. Smith also scored a career high 9.95 on the beam. Stewart posted career highs on the vault, bars and went 9.825 in the first beam routine of the year. All this without Hawkins and with Spidle limited to one event due to a sore wrist.

It should not be a surprise that Bama's three seniors stepped up in a big way in the final meet of the year. On Senior Night, the trio of Booth, Murphy and McAdams led the Tide to a season's best score, 196.950, to better number 25 Utah State's 193.425. Murphy soared to a perfect 10.0, the first of her career, in floor exercise to highlight the evening. Both Booth and McAdams also won events, Booth on vault and McAdams on balance beam. That final meet also included freshman Steward taking first place on uneven bars with a career high 9.95 and junior Chapman taking all-around with a career best 39.3.

With the question of how they will go on without Hawkins answered, all that remains is to go on. The Tide traveled back to Baton Rouge to the SEC Championships and a third look at the number one-ranked Bulldogs, but in gymnastics the conference finish is of little consequence.

Alabama returns to Tuscaloosa on April 4 for the most important meet of the season, the NCAA Central Regional Championships. To advance to the NCAA Championships, Alabama must either win the regional outright, earning one of five automatic bids, or score high enough at that meet to earn one of the seven at-large bids.

The Central Region is one of the nation's toughest with seven members of the top 25 among its number. Second-ranked Michigan stands as the region's top team. The Wolverines have come on during the latter half of the season, but have struggled on the road, scoring an average of two points lower when competing away from Crisler Arena. By contrast, Alabama has scored higher on the road, with its two best scores of the season coming away from Coleman Coliseum. Alabama will also be looking to gain some measure of revenge over the Central Region's third-ranked team, the Golden Gophers.

If Alabama earns a bid to the NCAA Championships, it will then be looking to return to the Super Six. After watching from the stands last year for the first time ever, Alabama is hungry to return to the Championships final night. And once there, it's well-established tradition that anything can happen.

Championship Season is upon us.

Spring Football:

Tide Committed To The Pass

by Kirk McNair

Spring training is underway with far more questions than answers after couple of days

There are two schools of thought about spring football practice (not including the thoughts of those coaches and players actually participating in it). Some are quite interested in the progress of a football team in its first stages of rebuilding, while others have little or no interest in a handful of practices that will end in, well, just another practice, even though it's dressed up as a spring game.

But it would be hard for an Alabama football fan not to be interested in this year's Alabama spring football practice. First of all, any effort to build a football team after a 4-7 season has to attract some interest.

Also, there are a couple of sub-plots going on. One is on offense, where Alabama Head Coach Mike DuBose is "committed" to the passing game, a commitment that put his team into a state of confusion in the early going. The other is on defense, where the Tide is trying to figure out exactly what kind of team it is going to be, figuring that is based on numbers of bodies at various positions now and in the future.

This year's A-Day Game on April 18 will probably be well-attended for those reasons and for the opportunity to gaze across the stadium at the new East side addition of seats and sky-boxes, which is expected to be completed early this summer.

Sylvester Croom, an All-America center for the Crimson Tide in the 1970s and now the offensive coordinator for the Detroit Lions of the National Football League, made an interesting observation while watching former Alabama players work out for NFL scouts in Tuscaloosa recently. Croom said that the top 12 teams in the NFL last year were also the top 12 rushing teams. Of the

teams that made the playoffs, Detroit, which features running back Barry Sanders, was the most pass-happy team. "It surprised me too," Croom said.

That warning along with decades of Alabama football success based on establishing the run first notwithstanding, Alabama is going to be passing the football in 1998. Bama has a lot more than tradition to contend with in attempting to install a sophisticated passing game. There is a new offensive coordinator, who is the offensive line coach, not the quarterbacks coach. And the quarterbacks coach, who was anointed with the additional title of "passing game coordinator," is also new. Moreover, he is working with a pair of quarterbacks who have barely more college game experience at quarterback than Big Al. The tight end position has been all but abandoned and the wide receivers corps would be considered no better than adequate, particularly now that Michael Vaughn has been injured again. The Tide also has a new tailback, a new fullback (if, indeed, Bama will have a fullback this year) and at least three of five offensive linemen will be new.

Successful offense takes each of 11 players carrying out his role. One player having a breakdown usually means the play fails. Considering the circumstances, DuBose and his staff have a monumental task to get any offense operating, much less a new one. But against all odds, it seems to be working.

Most of the attention in the passing game is on the passer. In Alabama's case, the passers are quarterbacks John David Phillips, a fifth-year senior, and Andrew Zow, a redshirt freshman. The other



Michael Vaughn, who missed all of last season with a back injury, was looking very good in spring training before suffering an elbow injury in a freak accident on the football field. He will miss the rest of spring work, but should be 100 per cent when fall practice begins in August.

Robert Sutton Photo



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quarterbacks in camp, all walk-ons, are getting basically no work with the offense. One other quarterback prospect has been on hand to watch drills, but incoming freshman Tyler Watts won't get into the race until August.

New Quarterbacks Coach Charlie Stubbs is checking out the mental capacity of his quarterback candidates as much as anything. While all offensive players have been subjected to a voluminous playbook, it is particularly taxing for quarterbacks. And that was by design. Bama's first two days of practice were in shorts and helmets, practices mandated by new NCAA rules that severely limit contact in spring training. DuBose is a typical coach in opposition to these new guidelines, noting that Alabama has "never played a football game in shorts." But while the team was in shorts, the practices were heavy on terminology, alignment and assignment since there could be little done in the way of techniques and fundamentals.

"We were able to acclimate them a little to the terminology," DuBose said. "Quite a bit of it has changed. We have changed just about all of it on offense and on special teams and we have made some changes in defensive terminology." He said the team was given an overwhelming amount of mental work to start practice. "We've got to make sure that we're not over-loading them and it may be that we need to simplify nomenclature," DuBose said. "But the biggest mistake we could make would be to not give them all they can handle. We need to give them as much as we can."

At the end of the first week, DuBose predicted, "We will be able to put in all the pass

A-Day Event Information

DATE: April 18
TIME: 2 p.m. CDT (Gates open at noon)
COST: No admission charge
SEATING: West side only
ENTER: Gates 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (West Side)
WALK OF FAME: Denny Chimes, 1 p.m.
FAN DAY: Coleman Coliseum, 9-11 a.m.

offense in the spring. We won't get all the run offense in, but we can catch that up in August."

Generally, DuBose has been pleased with the progress of Phillips and Zow at quarterback. Both have been making "good throws and, more important, good decisions," DuBose said. The two quarterbacks are scheduled to get an equal number of repetitions with the first team offense this spring. DuBose said a key to both showing improvement already this spring is the number of repetitions each has gotten.

The Tide coach also pointed out that both quarterbacks are excellent athletes. "Both run well, enough to improvise, and that should reduce the use of man pass coverage we see," He added, "We don't have it in yet, but we're going to put in an option package. It won't be complicated, but it will be something where the defense has to respect the quarterback and the pitch man."

DuBose said one complaint he has in the passing game is that the quarterbacks are not throwing the football to the running backs, particularly Shaun Alexander. "We're looking for the wide receivers and when they are not open we are holding the ball," DuBose said. He added it was important that Alexander run better routes.

Clearly the top receiver in the first few practices was Michael Vaughn, who had missed all last season after undergoing back surgery just prior to the opening game. Vaughn, Bama's leading receiver as a sophomore in 1996, showed no ill effects of the back injury. However, in the second full gear practice of the spring Vaughn was lost again, this time with an elbow injury suffered in a non-tackling drill. One thing that made the injury disappointing for DuBose is that Bama was repeating a play because it had not been executed correctly the first time. DuBose said the injury was not a bad one for a receiver and that Vaughn should be able to go in the fall. The next best receiver has been Quincy Jackson. Although Jackson and Vaughn were both listed as flankers prior to the start of drills, Jackson was shifted to split end to allow both on the field at the same time. Additionally, DuBose has predicted Bama will have a number of sets in which there are three or more wide receivers. It's going to be tough to get three good wide receivers on the field with the present bunch, although DuBose did compliment the pass-catching of Calvin Hall. Shamari Buchanan was cited for needing to catch the ball better, while Jason McAddley and Tim Bowens lack experience. DuBose has also said incoming signees will have to help at wide receiver.

One piece of good news is that DuBose has named Alexander the starting tailback, meaning he won't spend a third year on the bench. However, DuBose said the other tailback candidates haven't had enough work with the first offensive line to determine a depth chart behind Alexander. He listed it as walk-on Arvin Richard, followed by sopho-

Guess At An Alabama Spring Football Depth Chart

Here is a guess at the Alabama depth chart as the Crimson Tide approaches the mid-point of spring football practice. Although this depth chart shows Alabama in a traditional two-back/tight end offense and 4-3 defense, those alignments are only the starting base formations for Alabama this spring and could be changed. This depth chart is subject to considerable change as the Tide staff will evaluate progress during spring break. Not enough work had been done in the kicking game at the time this depth chart was prepared to give an adequate or accurate account of those positions. This depth chart does not include signees who will begin participation in August, at which time some are likely to be in the playing rotation. Nor does it include those being held out of spring work or limited in the amount of work they can do, including returning defensive starters left cornerback Fernando Bryant and right end Reggie Grimes and flanker Michael Vaughn, who was injured and is out for the spring.

OFFENSE

Split End—Quincy Jackson, Shamari Buchanan, Jason McAddley
Left Tackle—Chris Samuels, Michael Barfield
Left Guard—Jason McDonald, Todd Whitmore
Center—Paul Hogan, Brooks Brodie, Ty Babcock
Right Guard—Griff Redmill, Michael Moore
Right Tackle—Will Cuthbert, Chris Ray
Tight End—Rhett Crutchfield, Joe Yount
Quarterback—John David Phillips, Andrew Zow
Tailback—Shaun Alexander, Arvin Richard, Shaun Bohanon, Adam Cox
Fullback—Dustin McClintock, Montoya Madden
Flanker—Calvin Hall, Tim Bowens

Punter—Daniel Pope, Patrick Morgan

INJURED AND NOT PARTICIPATING OR PARTICIPATING ON VERY LIMITED BASIS

Flanker—Michael Vaughn
Right Offensive Tackle—Sage Spree
Placekicker—Ryan Pflugner

DEFENSE

Left End—Chris Hood, Shaun Williams
Left Tackle—Kenny Smith, Sam Matthews, Kelvis White
Right Tackle—Jamie Carter, Carlos Stennis, Rob-E Staten
Right End—Clint Waggoner, Shawn Draper
Strongside Linebacker—Steve Stanley, Chris Horne, Eddie Hunter
Middle Linebacker—Travis Carroll, Chris Edwards, Tito Smith, Granison Wagstaff
Weakside Linebacker—Trevis Smith, Steve Harris, Left Cornerback—Michael Feagin, Chris Reier
Right Cornerback—Antoine Hunter, Kecalf Bailey, Owen Winston
Strong Safety—Tony Dixon, Marcus Spencer, Jason Jones
Safety—Kelvin Sigler, Warren Foust, John Fielding

KICKERS

Placekicker—Jason Kemp, A.J. Diaz, Brian Cunningham

Right Defensive End—Reggie Grimes
Left Cornerback—Fernando Bryant
Right Cornerback—Thomas Hill

more Shaun Bohanon and redshirt freshman Adam Cox. (DuBose did say that he expected Bohanon, held out last year as a partial qualifier, to be academically eligible to play in the fall.)

DuBose is convinced the new passing game philosophy will open up the running game and prove beneficial to Alexander. He has said he wants Alexander to get at least 25 "touches" per game, meaning runs and pass receptions.

"We've got to spread the field and take what the defense gives us," DuBose said. "I've been drawing up defenses a long time, and I've never drawn up one that didn't have a weakness. We've got to exploit the weaknesses of the defense."

Dustin McClintock, who has a little experience at fullback, may find himself more often in the H-Back position played by Patrick Hape a few years ago. It's something of a cross between fullback and tight end with the possibility of him being in motion.

Tight end was barely utilized the past few years when Alabama had very good ones (Hape, Tony Johnson, both now in professional football, and Rod Rutledge, soon to be in the NFL). This spring the Tide moved the one scholarship player with any experience at tight end, Shaun Draper, to defensive end. "You can play football without a tight end a lot easier than you can without a defensive end," DuBose explained. The move left Bama with walk-on Rhett Crutchfield and redshirt freshman Joe Yount at tight end.

DuBose has said that he thinks the first offensive line has done well. That group is Chris Samuels and Will Cuthbert at tackles, Jason McDonald and Griff Redmill at guards and Paul Hogan at center. There is a concern about depth as DuBose has noted that a walk-on, Chris Ray, has moved in as a back-up right tackle since Sage Spree is out with an injury. The coach has also expressed concern about a back-up to Hogan at center, noting Brooks Brodie "has got to get better." He said Redmill and Cuthbert would get some work at center in order to provide depth. DuBose also said he wished Hogan (6-4, 275) would get bigger, but said Hogan "gives you all he's got."

The defense is as much a question mark as the offense. DuBose has a tendency in talking to the press to rattle off in technical jargon like he's trying to impress a gathering of coaches at a clinic when he starts talking defense, his area of expertise for a quarter of a century before becoming head coach. The bottom line is that Alabama probably won't know what kind of base defense will be in place until newcomers (particularly junior college transfers) are added in the fall.

The defense is generally divided into three groups—linemen, linebackers and backs. Among the linemen are ends and tackles and usually a team will use either three or four. There are outside linebackers and in-

side linebackers and, again, a team will ordinarily use three or four. Backs include cornerbacks and safeties, and safeties include strong safeties and weak safeties, and there are usually at least four backs (except in goalline situations when a tackle replaces a safety), and sometimes there is a fifth back (nickel) or a sixth back (dime).

And no one knows what combination will be Alabama's base defense, although it is likely to be a 4-3 (four linemen and three linebackers) or a 3-4 (three linemen and four linebackers) or 3-3 (three linemen and three linebackers with a fifth back). Alabama is also experimenting with a "stand-up end" whereby a 4-3 can be a 3-4. And DuBose still doesn't know if Alabama will be a one-gap or a two-gap defense, and if you need to know about that, go to a coaching clinic. "We will be more flexible on defense," DuBose said. In early drills, the preponderance of work was done with three defensive linemen, three linebackers and five backs, the fifth back usually a third safety. "We've got to find a way to get more speed out there and we have better numbers at safety," DuBose said.

Many football observers consider the ability to tackle to be more important to defensive success than schemes. DuBose agrees that Alabama has not been a good tackling

team for several years and said this is an area of priority this spring. He noted that new NCAA rules limit the number of days in which there can be tackling to eight of the 15 practices, but said Tide coaches would teach tackling even on days when there could be no actual tackling.

The big surprise up front has been Jamie Carter. Carter made a conscious effort to be in good shape for workouts, losing 23 pounds (down to 318 and headed to a playing weight of 295). Kenny Smith, who is playing tackle alongside Carter, is solid and so are the back-up tackles, Carlos Stennis and Sam Matthews. End is a problem with senior Chris Hood still appearing to be less effective than he was as a redshirt freshman and Reggie Grimes probably out for the spring as he recovers from last fall's broken leg. Steve Harris has looked pretty solid as an end.

The star of the linebacker corps is unquestionably Travis Carroll, the sophomore middle linebacker. DuBose said he had moved Tito Smith into the middle, too, in order to provide more speed in the back-up spots. DuBose said he was somewhat disappointed in the play of Steve Stanley and Chris Horne at strongside linebacker. The coach indicated both have appeared to be confused about their assignments. Trevis Smith is adequate at weakside linebacker.



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It's easy to see why DuBose doesn't expect to be able to determine the defensive alignment until he gets some more players. There just aren't many linebackers or defensive ends.

There are a number of secondary players who appear to be capable of getting the job done. And that doesn't include the top returning defensive back, left cornerback Fernando Bryant. Bryant, who is in the plans to get some work as a wide receiver as well as defender this year, suffered a broken jaw in a freak accident just prior to spring work. He may get some contact work after

spring break.

At the right cornerback spot Kecalf Bailey has shown a great deal of improvement and Antoine Hunter has made some plays. Charlie Harbison appears to be a very good addition to the Crimson Tide coaching staff as secondary coach. Bama seems to be at least two-deep at both safety spots with good players. DuBose said in the secondary the Tide would be primarily a man-to-man team, but that the zone and zone blitz packages would be utilized.

In early work the kickers had done a great

deal of work with no surprises, returnee Daniel Pope the clear leader to be the punter and Chris Kemp (who was solid against Auburn) leading A.J. Diaz and Brian Cunningham in the place-kicker race.

Tide Notes: There are some old faces in new roles at Alabama practices this spring. Lance Tucker, who just completed his football eligibility, is working as a student assistant coach with the offense and will become a graduate assistant coach in the fall. Jay Barker, who completed his quarterback eligibility following the 1994 season, is observing practice this spring, but he will enter graduate school in the fall and become a graduate assistant coach working with the defense. "Those are two pretty good football minds," DuBose said.

Redshirt freshman cornerback Chris Reier had been expected to miss spring football in order to play with the Crimson Tide baseball team. However, when it was determined that Reier will be redshirted in baseball this year, he returned to the football practice field. DuBose said he expected Reier to miss future spring practices and play baseball.

One of the most inspiring stories on Alabama's football team is walk-on defensive lineman Marquis Forge, who holds down a full-time "graveyard" shift job while attending school and playing football. DuBose said Forge had been excused from spring work "to concentrate on academics and on trying to survive financially." He said Forge would re-join the team in August.

Two players have not yet been seen in spring work. Offensive lineman Corey Kinnebrew and tight end Adam Joiner were being held out of drills for a period of time in order to take care of unspecified "responsibilities."

Walk-on placekicker, Jonah Dismukes of Mobile has given up football at Alabama.

In addition to Tyler Watts, some other Bama signees have been watching practices. They include tight end Terry Jones, Jr. and fullback/linebacker Marvin Constant, both of Tuscaloosa Central; wide receiver Sam Collins of Fayette County; and offensive lineman Bart Raulston of Sylvania.

Prior to the start of spring drills, DuBose complimented the players and the strength and conditioning program headed by Terry Jones, Sr. Although DuBose said the team was still not where it needed to be and not where teams that are competing for championships are, he noted that this year there are eight players bend pressing over 400 pounds, compared to only four at this time last year; 11 players who can power clean 300 pounds or more, compared to only three last year; and 16 players who can squat 500 pounds or more, compared to only two last year. He said that center Ty Babcock had won the "Lifter of the Year" Award for linemen, that tailback Adam Cox was the skill position "Lifter" and that defensive lineman Rob-E Staten won the award for all positions.

1998 Alabama Football Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	SERIES RECORD
Sept. 5	Brigham Young	Tuscaloosa	First Meeting
Sept. 12	Vanderbilt	Birmingham	Bama leads 52-19-4
Sept. 19	Open		
Sept. 26	Arkansas	Fayetteville	Bama leads 5-3-0
Oct. 3	Florida	Tuscaloosa	Bama leads 17-11-0
Oct. 10	Ole Miss	Tuscaloosa	Bama leads 36-7-2
Oct. 17	East Carolina	Birmingham	First Meeting
Oct. 24	Tennessee	Knoxville	Bama leads 42-31-7
Oct. 31	Southern Miss	Tuscaloosa	Bama leads 27-5-2
Nov. 7	LSU	Baton Rouge	Bama leads 40-16-5
Nov. 14	Mississippi State	Starkville	Bama leads 65-14-3
Nov. 21	Auburn	Birmingham	Bama leads 35-26-1

Lots of 5K road races have great looking T-shirts, plentiful refreshments, loads of door prizes, even entertainment...but only one race has

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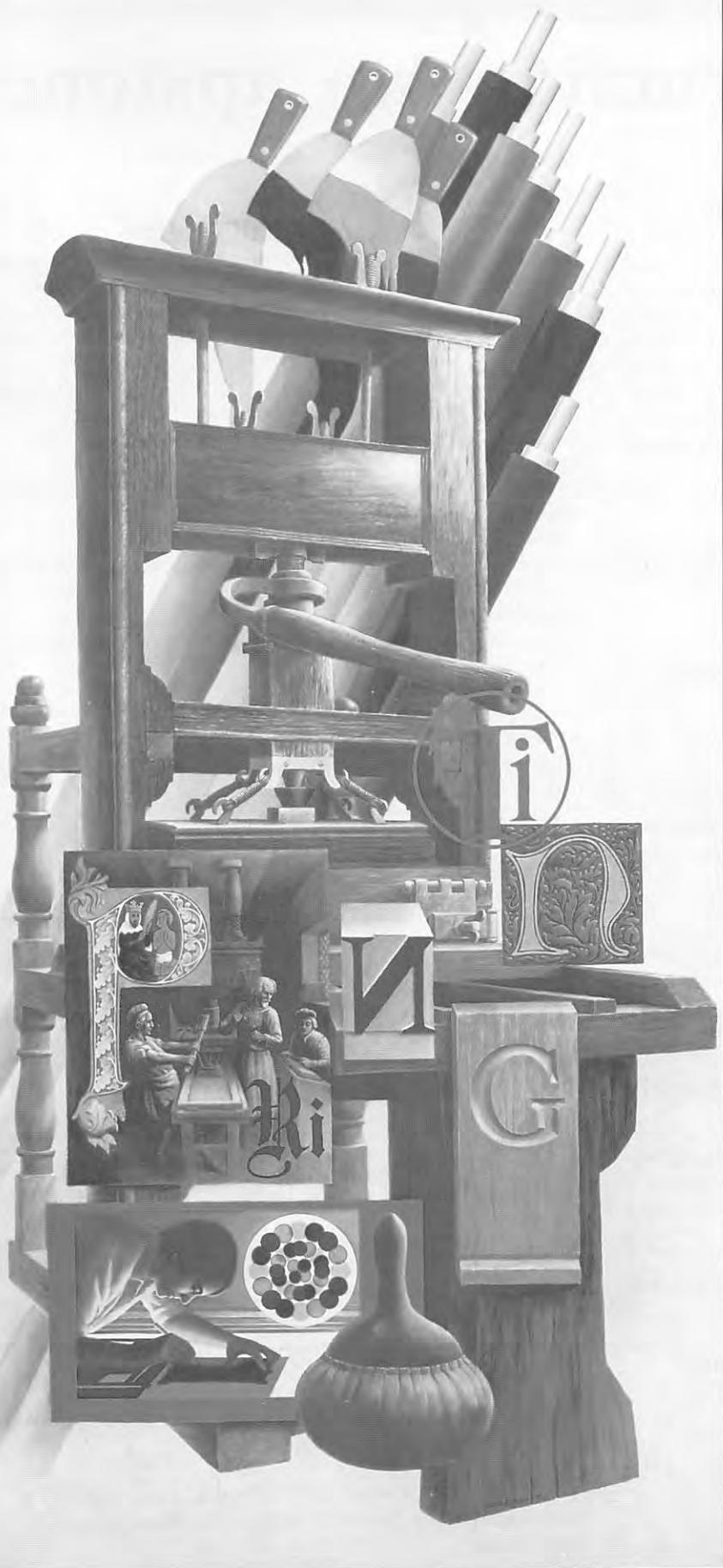


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Alabama Sports Camps:

Summer Instruction At Capstone

Each summer The University of Alabama's athletics complex is full of life and activity as many of its athletics programs host a summer camp for youths interested in perfecting their performance. Some camps even encompass adult participation. Most camps offer both day-camper and overnight camper rates for the convenience of campers who live both near and far from the Alabama campus. Overnight campers stay in university dorm rooms located a block from the athletics complex. Members of the camp staff stay in the dorms with the campers. Most camps offer a "free" camp tee shirt, at least one meal per day (overnight campers are fed all meals), and some offer extras like a video evaluation of individual skills, camp certificates and, in the case of football, a photo of the camper with Alabama Head Coach Mike DuBose.

Information on a boys basketball camp will be available later.

For complete information on a camp, call or write:

For the campers' safety, athletic trainers are included on each camp's staff. The staffs typically include the entire coaching staff plus current and former players.

Here's a list of camps offered during the summer of 1998.

Alabama Crimson Tide Golf Academy

Dates: Two Sessions, June 7-11 and June 14-18

Cost: \$595 overnight campers, \$395 day campers (room/meals, not included)

Ages: Girls and Boys, 10 years to high school seniors

Objective: 25th year of operation for this camp which gives 5:1 student/teacher ratio; students are grouped by age and skill to ensure each gets the most beneficial instruction and camp learning experience

Contact: Coach Dick Spybey

Registration Deadline: May 1 (late fee assessed after that date)

Phone: (205) 348-0383

Address: The Alabama Crimson Tide Golf Academy, 1655 McFarland Blvd. N, Suite 116, Tuscaloosa, AL 35406

Alabama Gymnastics Camp

Dates: Three Sessions, June 14-18, June 21-25 and July 26-30

Cost: \$415 per session for overnight campers, \$265 per session for day campers

Ages: 9 through senior in high school

Objective: Offers training to competitive female gymnasts of all levels, from beginner to elite gymnast

Contact: Coach David Patterson
Registration Deadline: May 29 for Session I, June 5 for Session II and July 10 for Session III

Phone: (205) 348-8381 or 348-4578

Address: The University of Alabama Gymnastics Camp, P.O. Box 860253, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0003

Alabama FastPitch Softball Camp

Dates: June 8-11

Cost: \$300 for overnight campers, \$260 for commuters

Ages: 10-18 (Senior in high School)

Objective: To learn basic and competitive skills in baserunning, defense, hitting and pitching for girls fastpitch softball

Contact: Coach Karen Johns

Registration Deadline: Recommended by end of May

Phone: (205) 348-4400

Address: Alabama Fastpitch Softball Camp, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Bama Baseball Camp

Dates: Four Sessions June 8-10 Hitting, Baserunning and Defense (ages 6-12); June 10-12 Pitching and Defense (ages 6-12); Session II June 22-24 Hitting, Baserunning and Defense (Ages 13-18); June 24-26 Pitching and Defense (ages 13-18); Session III July 6-8 Hitting, Baserunning and Defense (Ages 6-12); July 8-10 Pitching and Defense (ages 6-12); Session IV July 20-22 Hitting, Baserunning and Defense (Ages 13-18), July 22-24 Pitching and Defense (Ages 13-18)

Cost: TBA
Ages: 6-18
Objective: To teach basic and competitive skills in hitting, baserunning, defense and pitching

Contact: Coach Kirk Blount

Registration Deadline: Early registration will ensure a spot in this popular camp
Phone: (205) 348-5258
Address: Alabama Baseball Camp, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0393

Mike Dubose Football Camp

Dates: Two Sessions June 7-10 includes Skill Camp (Grades 6-12) and Line Camp (Grades 6-12); June 10-13 includes Junior Camp (Grades 2-5) and Skill Camp (Grades 6-12) and Line Camp (Grades 6-12)

Cost: \$225 per session
Ages: Grades 2-12
Objective: Provides expert instruction on the basic skills and fundamentals of offensive and defensive football

Contact: Football Camp Coordinator
Registration Deadline: May 29
Phone: (205) 348-0808
Address: Mike DuBose Football Camp, P.O. Box 870323, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0323

Judy Green Volleyball Camp

Dates: Two Sessions July 12-16 for Individual Camp, July 26-29 for Team Camp

Cost: Individual Camp \$265 for overnight, \$210 for day campers; Team Camp \$220 (per person) overnight, \$175 (per person) day campers

Ages: Grades 6-12
Objective: Developing the skills necessary to enjoy volleyball, including individual fundamentals and team strategies of the game
Contact: Coach John Rodgers

Registration Deadline: Those who register before June 1 receive a free Nike Gear Bag

Phone: (205) 348-3829 or 348-3559

Address: Judy Green Volleyball Camp, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

Rick Moody's Girls Basketball Camp

Dates: Two Sessions, June 14-17 for Individual Camp; June 18-20 for Position Camp

Cost: Individual Camp, \$230 Early-Bird Registration (overnight),

\$250 (overnight) (for registering after May 1); \$175 day campers (includes day meals); Position Camp, \$180 per session (overnight), \$125 per session (day camper)

Ages: Girls, 10-18

Objective: To stress preparation and approach and basic skills

Contact: Coach Cassandra Crumpton-Moorer

Registration Deadline: May 1 for Early Bird Special

Phone: (205) 348-7077

Address: Rick Moody Girls Basketball Camp, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0393

Southeast Elite Cross Country Camp

Dates: July 27-30

Cost: \$229 for resident campers, \$209 for individuals in a group/team of four or more

Ages: Boys and Girls, ages 13-senior in high school

Objective: Headed by Tide Men's Cross Country Coach David Troy and Women's Cross Country Coach Rachelle Roberts; Designed for long distance, middle distance and cross country runner; to educate on the proper methods for training to be success runner; covers training, diet, etc.

Contact: Coach David Troy

Registration Deadline: July 1

Phone: (205) 348-8863

Address: Southeast Elite Cross Country Camp, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0393

Southeast Elite Track and Field Camp

Dates: June 28-July 1

Cost: \$229 for resident camper, \$209 for individual in a group/team of four or more

Ages: Boys and girls, ages 10- senior in high school

Objective: Camps coaches include Men's Coach Harvey Glance (sprints/hurldes), Women's Head Coach Sandy Fowler (throws), Men's Cross Country Coach David Troy (distance/middle distance) and Assistant Rod Tiffin (jumps); Camp designed to develop individual strengths of each camper through experimentation in any event the camper wishes to try; techniques, training, basic skills, and nutrition are taught

Contact: Coach David Troy

Registration Deadline: Early registration is encouraged

Phone: (205) 348-8863

Address: Southeast Elite Track and Field Camp, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0393

Don Staley's Bama Soccer Camps

Dates: Four Sessions

June 1-5 Pee Wee Camp (Ages 4-6); June 8-12 Junior All-Stars (Ages 7-10); June 20-24 Girls' Advanced Boarding Camp; June 24-July 3 Boys' and Girls' Day Camp (Ages 11-14)

Cost: \$65 for Pee Wee Camp (Ages 4-6); \$95 for Junior All-Stars (Ages 7-10); \$325 overnight Girls Advanced Boarding Camp; \$225 day campers Girls Advanced Boarding Camp; \$120 Boys' and Girls' Day Camp

Ages: Boys and Girls, ages 4-18

Objective: Learn skills in soccer from beginners to advanced player with instruction in both basic individual and team tactics.

Contact: Coach Don Staley

Registration Deadline: Applicants are encouraged to register by June 1

Phone: (205) 348-0143 or 348-0144

Address: Don Staley's Bama Soccer Camps, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0393

The Alabama Swim Camp

Dates: Four Sessions, May 24-29, May 31-June 5, June 7-12, June 21-26

Cost: \$395 for first week, per overnight session; \$330 for each additional week, overnight session; \$285 per session for day camp; \$765 for Alabama Elite Camp for two week session or \$420 for first week plus \$345 for a second week and \$310 for each additional week thereafter.

Ages: No minimum age

Objective: To make each participant emerge as a stronger, improved competitive swimmer through its stroke correction and technique perfection teachings

Contact: Coach Vance Rose

Registration Deadline: May 15

Phone: (205) 348-3914

Address: Alabama Swim Camp, P.O. Box 866103, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0054

The Crimson Tide Tennis Camp

Dates: Three Sessions, June 7-11; June 14-18; June 21-25

Cost: \$375 Overnight Camper, \$225 Day Camper

Ages: Boys and Girls, 8-18

Objective: Tide Head Men's and Women's Tennis Coaches Adam Steinberg and Jenny Mainz teach skills, drills and supervise match play to stress the fundamentals and strategies of the game to all skill levels.

Contact: Adam Steinberg

Registration Deadline: Applicants are encouraged to register by June 1

Phone: (205) 348-3686

Address: Crimson Tide Tennis Camp, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

The University of Alabama Sports Medicine Workshop

Dates: June 10-13

Cost: \$185

Ages: Students 10th grade or higher and adults

Objective: Aid in prevention, recognition, evaluation, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries

Contact: John Morr or Ginger Gilmore

Phone: (205) 348-5347

Address: University of Alabama Sports Medicine Workshop, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0393

University of Alabama Summer Cheerleader/Dance Camps

Dates: Cheer 1 May 25-28, Cheer 2 May 29-June 1, Cheer 3 June 2-5, Cheer 4 June 10-13, Cheer 5 July 21-24, Junior Cheer 1 July 17-19; Dance 1 June 6-9, Dance 2 July 17-20.

Ages: For high school and junior high cheer and dance squads. Mascot instruction is also included in cheerleader camps; individuals may attend without squads

Contact: Debbie Purifoy

Phone: (205) 348-3686

Address: Debbie Purifoy, University of Alabama Athletics Department, P.O. Box 870323, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

1998 Alabama Spring Sports Results

Baseball

Date/ UA	Opponent	Time/ Opp.
15	Houston	5
4	Houston	2
8	Houston	4
5	Nicholls State	3
12	Nicholls State	3
6	Ark-Little Rock	3
4	Ark-Little Rock	1
20	Ark-Little Rock	3
23	Louisiana Tech	3
5	Louisiana Tech	3
2	@ Cal-Fullerton	6
4	@ Cal-Fullerton	5
5	@ Cal-Fullerton	6
15	Mercer	3
12	Mercer	5
8	Florida	1
12	Florida	7
Mar. 8	Florida	cancelled
5	@ Georgia	4
5	@ Georgia	8
16	@ Georgia	7
22	Eastern Illinois	1
15	West Alabama	4
1	@ South Carolina	3
11	@ South Carolina	0
10	@ South Carolina*	11
Mar. 24	Southern Miss	7:00
Mar. 27	Mississippi State	7:00
Mar. 28	Mississippi State	2:00
Mar. 29	Mississippi State	2:00
Mar. 31	@ Southern Miss	6:30
April 1	Samford	7:00
April 3	@ Arkansas	7:00
April 4	@ Arkansas	2:00
April 5	@ Arkansas	1:00
April 7	North Alabama	7:00
April 8	Jacksonville State	7:00
April 10	Tennessee	7:00
April 11	Tennessee	2:00
April 12	Tennessee	2:00
April 14	@ South Alabama	6:30
April 15	@ Troy State	7:00
April 17	@ LSU	7:00
April 18	@ LSU	4:00
April 19	@ LSU	1:00
April 21	South Alabama	7:00
April 22	@ UAB	6:05
April 24	Ole Miss	7:00
April 25	Ole Miss	2:00
April 26	Ole Miss	2:00
April 29	UAB	7:00
May 1	@ Vanderbilt	7:00
May 2	@ Vanderbilt	2:00
May 3	@ Vanderbilt	2:00
May 8	Auburn	7:00
May 9	Auburn	2:00
May 10	Auburn	2:00
May 14	- SEC Tournament	
May 17	@ Hoover Met	
May 21	- NCAA Regionals	
May 24	@ campus sites	
May 29	- College World Series	
June 6	@ Omaha	

*11 innings

All times central

Softball

Date/ UA	Opponent	Time/ Opp.
15	Arizona State Classic	
15	Detroit Mercy	0
6	Utah	4 (8 innings)
0	Fresno State	8
4	UNLV	8
2	Arizona State	5
1	Bama Bash	
7	Northeastern Illinois	11
1	Texas Tech	2
9	Austin Peay	1
3	Centenary	0
5	U-T-Chattanooga	9
9	Northeastern Illinois	1
15	Wisconsin	7
3	Michigan	5
2	Ball State	1
8	Florida	0
3	Iowa State	2
5	Temple	1
1	Florida State	4
18-12	@ Samford	0-1
16-1	Siena	0-0
7-12	Arkansas	1-0
6-8	Arkansas	0-4
3-3	Louisiana Tech	2-2
12-16	@ Kentucky	1-1
6-7	@ Tennessee	1-8
18	Georgia Southern	5:00
27	@ Georgia Tech Invite	
29	(Alabama plays	
	Mercer, Middle Tennessee, New	
	Mexico, South Florida)	
31	@ Florida	6:00
4	Mississippi	1:00
5	Mississippi	1:00
8	@ Auburn	2:00
17	@ Miss. State	6:00
18	Miss. State	4:00
20	Georgia Tech	3:00
25	South Carolina	1:00
26	Georgia	1:00
29	Auburn	5:00
2	LSU	1:00
3	LSU	1:00
8	- SEC Tournament	
10	TBA	
	May 15- NCAA Regionals	
	May 17 campus sites	
	May 21- College World Series	
	May 25 @ Oklahoma City	

Other than tournament games
all games are doubleheaders.
Home games played at Bowers Park.

All times central

Men's Tennis

Date/ UA	Opponent	Time/ Opp.
7	Troy State	0
6	Georgia State	1
7	Southern Miss	0
Feb. 5-8	National Indoor	
5	@ Georgia Tech	2
3	Northwestern	4
2	@ Atlanta	
Feb. 19-	National Team Indoor	
Feb. 22	@ Louisville	
4	@ UAB	3
1	Georgia Tech	2
Feb. 19-	National Team Indoor	
Feb. 22	@ Madison, Wisc.	
0	South Alabama	9
0	@ South Carolina	9
0	@ Clemson	9
6	@ Florida	ppd.
0	Kentucky	9
0	Wake Forest	9
2	@ Tennessee	7
1	@ Vanderbilt	8
0	Ole Miss	9
Mar. 25	Auburn	1:00
Mar. 29	Georgia	10:00
Mar. 31	@ South Florida	1:00
April 2	@ Florida Inter.	2:00
April 4	@ Miami	10:00
April 8	@ Miss. State	2:30
April 10	@ Arkansas	2:00
April 11	LSU	10:00
Apr. 16-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 19	@ Lexington, Ky.	
May 8-	NCAA Regionals	
May 10	TBA	
May 15-	NCAA Championships	
May 22	@ South Bend, Ind.	

All times central

Men's Outdoor Track

Date	Event
Mar. 26-29	Alabama Relays
Mar. 30-	Miami Outdoor
April 4	
April 9-	@ Sea Ray Relays
April 11	@ Knoxville, Tenn.
April 17-	Mt. Sac Relays
April 19	@ Walnut, Calif.
April 23-25	@ Penn Relays
May 3	Alabama Open
May 14-	SEC Champs.
May 17	@ Gainesville
June 3-	NCAA Championships
June 6	@ Buffalo, N.Y.

Women's Track

Date	Event
Mar. 20-21	@ Clemson Relays
Mar. 26-29	Alabama Relays
April 4	@ Georgia Invit.
April 9-	@ Sea Ray Relays
April 11	@ Knoxville, Tenn.
April 17-	Mt. Sac Relays
April 19	@ Walnut, Calif.
April 24-25	@ Drake Relays
May 3	Alabama Open
May 13	@ Tennessee Open
May 22-	SEC Champs.
May 24	@ Gainesville
June 3-	NCAA Championships
June 6	@ Buffalo, N.Y.

Women's Tennis

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 23-26	@ Georgia Invite	
3	Southern Miss	6
Feb. 5-	National Indoor	
Feb. 8	@ Dallas	
2	UAB	7
1	Georgia Tech	8
Feb. 19-	National Team Indoor	
Feb. 22	@ Madison, Wisc.	
0	South Alabama	9
0	@ South Carolina	9
0	@ Clemson	9
6	@ Florida	ppd.
0	Kentucky	9
0	Wake Forest	9
2	@ Tennessee	7
1	@ Vanderbilt	8
0	Ole Miss	9
Mar. 25	Auburn	1:00
Mar. 29	Georgia	10:00
Mar. 31	@ South Florida	1:00
April 2	@ Florida Inter.	2:00
April 4	@ Miami	10:00
April 8	@ Miss. State	2:30
April 10	@ Arkansas	2:00
April 11	LSU	10:00
Apr. 16-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 19	@ Lexington, Ky.	
May 8-	NCAA Regionals	
May 10	TBA	
May 15-	NCAA Championships	
May 22	@ South Bend, Ind.	

All times central

Women's Golf

Date	Event	Result
Feb. 27-	Florida Lady Gator	
Mar. 1	@ Gainesville	10 of 19
Mar. 13-	LSU Fairwood	
Mar. 15	@ Baton Rouge	4 of 15
Mar. 24-	Rainbow Invitational	
Mar. 26	@ Oahu, Hawaii	
Apr. 10-	Women's Southern	
Apr. 12	@ Athens, Ga.	
Apr. 17-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 19	@ Riverchase, B'ham	
May 7-	NCAA Regional	
May 9	@ Duke	
May 20-	NCAA Championships	
May 23	@ Madison, Wisc.	

Men's Golf

Date	Event	Result
Feb. 7-	Florida Invitational	
Feb. 8	@ Gainesville	14 of 15
Feb. 18-	John Burns	
Feb. 20	@ Honolulu	19 of 22
Mar. 6-	Matlock Invitational	
Mar. 2	@ Lakeland, Fla.	17 of 18
Mar. 20-	Spring Invitational	
Mar. 22	@ Montgomery	14 of 18
Apr. 10-	Billy Hitchcock	
Apr. 12	@ Auburn	
Apr. 17-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 19	@ Athens, Ga.	
May 14-	NCAA East Regional	
May 16	TBA	
May 27-	NCAA Championships	
May 30	@ Albuquerque, N.M.	

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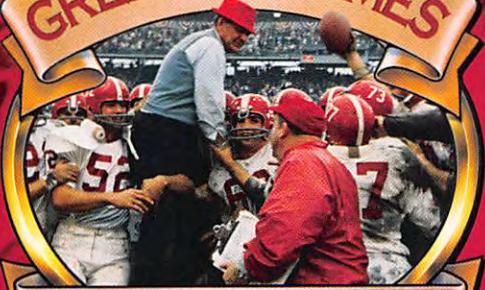
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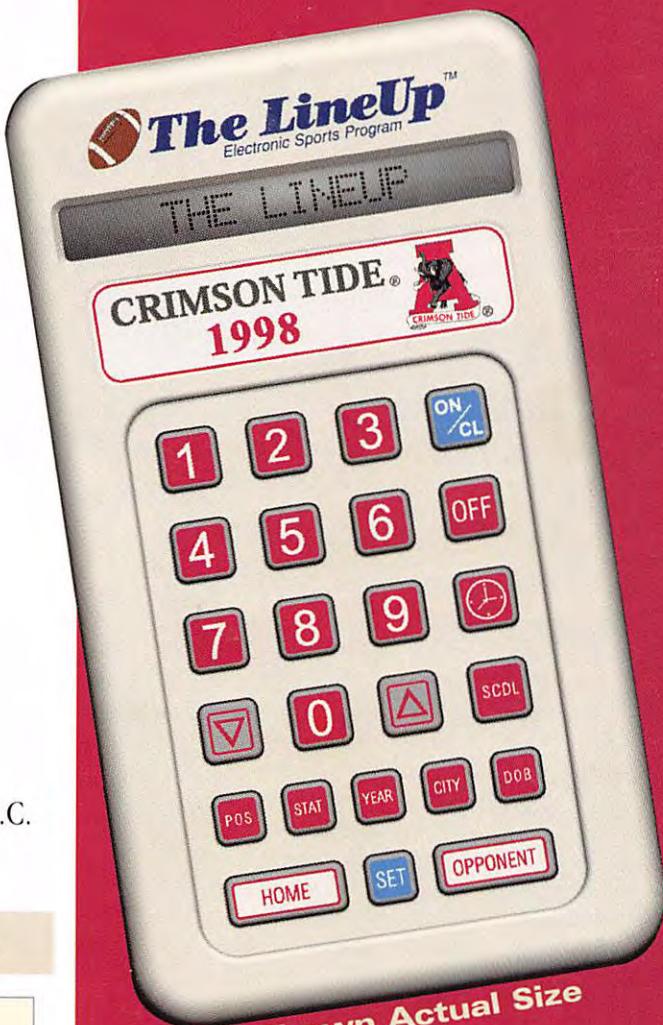
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